METRO / A23

Controversial audio expert Jonathan Tiongco killed in car accident

ACROSS / A18

PDI correspondent says he's being harassed by a mayor in Davao del Sur

NEWS / A2

Ex-DepEd official tags Pichay as leader of CA extortion ring

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Husband of Amalia Fuentes seen dating woman from prominent Cebu clan

Judge cites commanders criminally liable for slays

By Allison W. Lopez

THE DOCTRINE OF COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY may be used in cases involving extrajudicial killings, a Manila Regional Trial Court judge said yesterday.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 said the doctrine was still "new" to the courts but that the judiciary was now explor-

JUDGE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIE
Wednesday, June 27, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 199 P18 website:

ON THE VERGE OF CONVERSION? Pope Benedict XVI met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Saturday fueling reports he's turning to the Catholic faith. Britain has never had a Catholic PM. VATICAN

'CLOSET' CATHOLIC

Blair called 'the great convert' in Rome

BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair met Saturday with Pope Benedict XVI in a private audience at the Vatican, heightening speculation that the outgoing premier was on the verge of converting to Catholicism.

"There he is," whispered a beaming Vatican official. "The great convert," the British paper The Observer reported Sunday.

Britain's dominant religion is the Church of England, whose followers are called Anglicans. Britain has never had a Catholic prime minister.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, the British Embassy would not comment on Blair's reported conversion.

Blair hands over today the prime minister's post to Finance Minister Gordon Brown after 10 years in office.

On a table in Pope Benedict's vast study, was the gift that the Pontiff had just received from Blair—a frame containing three original photographs of Cardinal John Henry Newman, the most famous English convert to Roman Catholicism. So far at least.

Newman, an Anglican prelate, converted in 1845 and was later made a cardinal of the Catholic Church. In 1991 he was declared "venerable," putting him on the road to sainthood.

"Blair has been attending Catholic Mass, often with his family but also occasionally alone, since long before he became prime minister. His wife,

BLAIR/ A21

Opposition lawyers quit

CENTER OF CONTROVERSY: The deeply disputed retabulation of the municipal CoCs from 22 towns by the special board of canvassers is going on at the 5-ha compound of the Maguindanao capitol with a flyover in Shariff Aguak. EDWIN BACASMAS

But Comelec continues Maguindanao's special canvass despite walkout

By Nikko Dizon

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—Lawyers of the Genuine Opposition (GO) yesterday quit the scandal-ridden Maguindanao vote canvassing and Bayan Muna's chief legal counsel staged a walkout, charging the proceedings were meant to "legitimize" fraudulent vote tallies.

A special board of canvassers is retabulating the tallies—or municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs)—from 22 towns to determine who between the administration's Team Unity (TU) candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri and GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III would take the 12th Senate slot in the midterm elections.

As of yesterday, partial results of the retabulation of tallies from five towns showed Zubiri with 56,865 votes and Pimentel III with 23,466.

In Manila, the Supreme Court yesterday held back from issuing a temporary restraining order to stop the contentious Maguindanao vote count until it had heard from the Commission on Elections and Zubiri.

A court spokesperson said the tribunal hoped the Comelec would not do anything in the meantime to preempt the court's decision.

The court scheduled oral arguments for 2 p.m. on Thursday on Pimentel's pe-

OPPOSITION/ A10

Bedol roams freely despite Comelec's arrest order

By Jocelyn R. Uy *in Manila*
and Nikko Dizon *in Maguindanao*

VOWING TO MAKE HIM "CRINGE LIKE a cornered rat," the Commission on Elections yesterday ordered the arrest of its embattled poll supervisor Lintang Bedol for his supposed refusal to explain how Maguindanao vote tallies in his custody were stolen.

The arrest order marked the latest twist in a bizarre election saga that has kept Filipinos in suspense for weeks over who won the 12th and last Senate slot, drove some school teachers into hiding and apparently led to the murder of a school official.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer announced the arrest order after the Comelec cited Bedol in contempt for his failure to appear and explain in writing the circumstances behind the supposed theft of the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs) for Maguindanao.

Calling the poll supervisor "a fugitive," Ferrer warned Bedol, who purportedly refused to give him his address, to "hide himself very well" if he was in hiding.

He also called on the people to effect a citizen's arrest and turn Bedol over to the police.

Ferrer's remarks seemed curious. Bedol

BEDOL ROAMS/ A10

Wife sues Iggy over depletion of ₱127M in assets

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Kristine L. Alave

THE ESTRANGED WIFE OF NEGROS Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo has filed a petition for support and the dissolution of their conjugal property, accusing him of depleting their assets of close to P127 million "in a span of only one year" as shown in his latest statement of assets and liabilities (SAL).

Alicia "Aleli" Arroyo, accompanied by her lawyer Lorna Kapunan, filed the petition in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday afternoon. The case will be raffled off to the court that would hear it tomorrow, according to the court staff.

Iggy Arroyo is the younger brother of Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband.

WIFE/ A21

BITTERSWEET: Wife of Rep. Iggy Arroyo (inset, left), Aleli, marks first anniversary of their separation.

Mike A at 61: '20 pounds lighter, 10 years younger'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SANA TUNAY ANG HIMALA!

THIS "WALKING miracle" is "20 pounds lighter and 10 years younger."

Jose Miguel Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, was thus described by his chief of staff, Undersecretary Juris Soliman, and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, who saw him in Malacañang on Tuesday.

The First Gentleman has lost much weight and, according to his friends, even looks a lot younger as he turns 61 today, nearly three months after dangerous open heart surgery.

The President is expected to return tonight from a five-day trip to Singapore and Equatorial Guinea in time to join a

MIKE A/ A21

"WALKING MIRACLE," Mike Arroyo describes himself at the launch of his medical scholarships.

Teachers risk lives in classrooms without borders

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S "mobile teachers," or MTs, are not your typical public school teachers.

They travel long distances, at times trekking for hours just to reach their target students—out-of-school youth and adults, a majority of whom can neither read nor write.

In the absence of classrooms, many MTs hold special literacy classes under the shade of trees, among other outdoor sites.

Some of them have been mistaken for military agents, if not rebel supporters, putting their lives and those of their loved ones in danger.

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus prefers to call DepEd's 804 mobile teachers the "force behind our Alternative Learning System" or ALS.

TEACHERS/ A10

GMA to seal oil exploration venture in E. Guinea

FOLLOWING THE MOVE BY WESTERN AND Asian investors to exploit newly discovered oil reserves in West Africa, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flew to Equatorial Guinea in the hope of sealing a joint venture exploration deal with the oil-rich nation.

Ms Arroyo left Singapore on a chartered Philippine Airlines flight and was scheduled to arrive later Tuesday in Equatorial Guinea's capital Malabo for a 12-hour visit. She returns to Manila on Wednesday.

Ms Arroyo arrived in Singapore on Saturday to attend the World Economic Forum on East Asia and make her second state visit to the city-state.

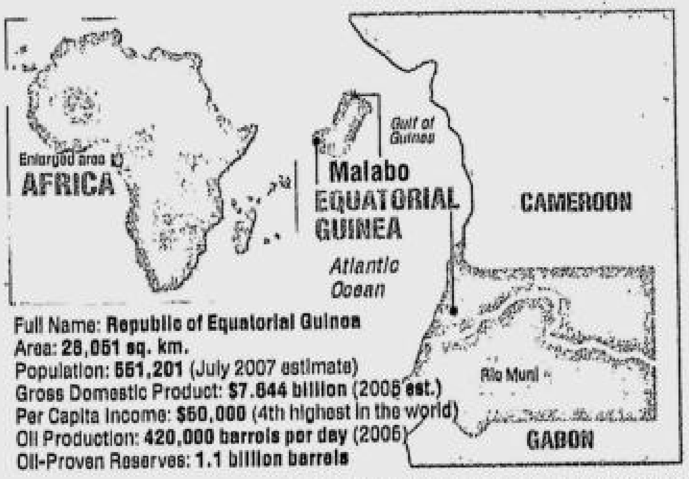
While in Equatorial Guinea, Ms Arroyo is scheduled to address the People's Republic Chamber, followed by a meeting with her counterpart, President Teodoro Obiang Mbasogo.

The two leaders are scheduled to witness the signing of an accord for further bilateral cooperation.

A Palace statement said Manila's friendship with Malabo grew after the state visit to the Philippines of President Mbasogo in May 2006.

"We shall engage Equatorial Guinea bilaterally and multilaterally through the mutual support of each other's initiatives in the international community. Our countries have a shared agenda of defeating poverty through the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership and the United Nations," the statement quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

GMA TO SEAL/ A21



Full Name: **Republic of Equatorial Guinea**
Area: **28,051 sq. km.**
Population: **551,201** (July 2007 estimate)
Gross Domestic Product: **$7.644 billion** (2006 est.)
Per Capita Income: **$50,000** (4th highest in the world)
Oil Production: **420,000 barrels per day** (2006)
Oil-Proven Reserves: **1.1 billion barrels**

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/06/26/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Senate calls for probe of broadband contract

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE YESTERDAY CALLED FOR AN investigation of the $330-million broadband contract entered into by the Department of Transportation and Communications with an allegedly notorious Chinese company that had left a long trail of dubious deals around the world.

"I conducted research on the Chinese telecommunications company, ZTE Corp., that bagged the National Broadband Network. I discovered that it was involved in questionable deals in other countries where it set up business," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a statement.

Pimentel claimed that ZTE had been accused of bribing public officials to secure juicy projects and falsifying its bid documents to make it appear that it was China's biggest telecoms player (It is actually ranked No. 3). Pimentel said countries where ZTE became embroiled in dubious deals included Mexico, Liberia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Libya and Burma.

Pimentel questioned the DOTC for failing to do a background check on ZTE before signing the contract on April 22 during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China.

Questions on ZTE's background and the questionable disappearance of the original copy of the contract have given the government another black eye.

"The controversy will not die down until corrective steps are made, the Senate must look into the transaction," said Pimentel.

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday stepped into the controversy.

An NBI official suspects that the loss of the documents could possibly be a result of a conspiracy among the country's commercial attaché to China, his assistant and competitors of ZTE.

Arnel Dalumpines, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said they were looking into the possibility that Emmanuel Nino Wee Ang, commercial attaché of the Philippine Consulate in Guangzhou, Guangdong, and Allan Liu, a Chinese national whose real name is Liu Zhen Qiang and who works as a trade assistant and interpreter, connived with rival companies of ZTE Corp.

"We're still establishing information, but it's possible that the competitors (of ZTE) were behind the loss of the documents," Dalumpines told reporters. "It could be a demolition job because they did not win the bid."

Dalumpines said that Liu had denied involvement or knowledge of the missing documents, saying he was not aware that the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) signed by ZTE vice president Yu Yong and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza were in his custody.

The NBI-STF filed on Monday charges against Ang for violation of Article 217 (malversation of public funds and property) in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Ang and Liu were the last persons in possession of the five copies of the signed MOAs which went missing a few hours after the signing. *With a report from Tina G. Santos*

'2 ex-DepEd chiefs hit for cash, favors by CA members'

By Alcuin Papa

A FORMER EDUCATION official has revealed details of the alleged extortion racket in the Commission on Appointments, involving the confirmation of two former education secretaries.

But the way the official, who asked not to be named, told it, the racket more often than not involved "horse-trading," not always in money terms but in the form of positions, projects and favors of one sort or another from the Department of Education (DepEd).

The DepEd has the biggest budget of all government agencies.

Outgoing Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves had claimed that the congressional confirmation process was attended by extortion involving some members of the CA. He said a cabal he called the "Big 5" extorted up to P5 million from government officials seeking confirmation of their appointments from the body.

The former education official said that on at least two occasions during the confirmation hearings for then Education Secretaries Florencio Abad and Edilberto de Jesus, the DepEd was asked for money in exchange for speeding up the process.

He said in 2004, the House contingent in the CA invited Abad and other education officials to a meeting at a restaurant in Quezon City.

He said the congressmen's group was led by Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay who served as the group's unofficial spokesperson.

He quoted Pichay as saying that P5 million would have to be made available for each congressman.

He said Abad agreed but said the amount would not be in cash but in the form of school buildings, an outlay for teachers and furniture. Abad also insisted the amount be spread out over two years "or the budget of the DepEd would be affected."

'Everybody needs it'

Abad, who is himself a former member of Congress, later told the DepEd officials that he agreed to the deal as "everybody needs it [DepEd funds] anyway." Abad got his confirmation.

"The question is, was the amount in exchange for confirmation or a *palambing* [sweetener]. We got the impression that that was how the game was played. I would not have been surprised if, had he [Abad] not agreed to the deal, he would not have been confirmed," the source said.

Earlier in 2003, during the confirmation of De Jesus, the source said two congressmen approached the secretary and said he needed to "make available" a certain amount. The two congressmen also wanted 30 percent of all DepEd textbook contracts.

"He [De Jesus] said that in principle, he would not make these deals," the source said. Besides which, the textbook contracts had already been concluded and the books delivered.

The official said the two congressmen "made sure" De Jesus was not confirmed. Not only that, the source said the two congressmen made sure the DepEd was hauled before the House committee on good government on the issue of the textbook contracts.

"Clearly, it was a quid pro quo. The worse part was that the two were Lakas guys," the official said.

When De Jesus tried to raise the issue with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Malacañang officials, he was told "*bahala ka sa* confirmation *mo*" (you are on your own). De Jesus was never confirmed.

Abad told the INQUIRER it was the "usual" practice for congressmen to ask for concessions from officials seeking confirmation.

"I don't know if you can call it a bribe but [it's] usual for solons to take advantage of the CA and budget hearings to ask for projects, appointments or the resolution of local constituency issues," Abad said in a text message.

Pichay denial

Contacted for comment, Pichay yesterday denied that he or any member of the CA had asked Abad for anything.

"That is not true. In fact, it was he [Abad] who requested the meeting," Pichay told the INQUIRER.

Pichay recalled that Abad "wanted to be confirmed immediately. We said 'OK, no problem.'"

During the meeting, Pichay said Abad gave them a list of projects for every district.

"There is nothing wrong with that. We told him to implement these immediately. But we never asked for anything," Pichay said.

He also pointed out that the issue was taking on political color as Abad was a member of the Black and White Movement which had sought the ouster of the President.

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Gov Vi asked to step into Taal spa controversy

By Volt Contreras

IN WHAT COULD BE HER FIRST test case, incoming Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos was asked yesterday by groups protesting the construction of a Korean-owned health spa along the crater of Taal Volcano to stop the project.

"We are calling on Governor-elect Santos to take the side of the people," said Resting Dimayuga, a Taal lakeshore community leader, in a press forum organized by leftist groups Pamalakaya and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The call would force Santos, the outgoing Lipa City mayor and veteran film star, to dissuade the mayors of the 13 towns surrounding Taal Lake to take back their endorsement of the project.

"Her predecessor Armand Sanchez and her brother-in-law Richard Recto have already expressed opposition to the project. We hope that she would share the same view," said Dimayuga of the Samahan ng mga Mamamayan sa Lawa ng Taal (Samataal).

The spa is being built on a six-hectare crater area that a local landowner sold to Korean investors. The land titles date back to the Spanish colonial era.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology did not oppose the project but merely advised against the setting up of "permanent structures" in the area which it had declared a "permanent danger zone."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources granted the project an environmental clearance certificate in November last year.

Dimayuga noted that backhoes, a hollow block-making machine and culvert pipes had been brought into the area since work began late last month.

Pamalakaya and KMP leaders said they would file in the next few days graft charges against Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes and other environment and local government officials who supported the project, as well as the spa's builder, Jung Ang Interventure Corp.

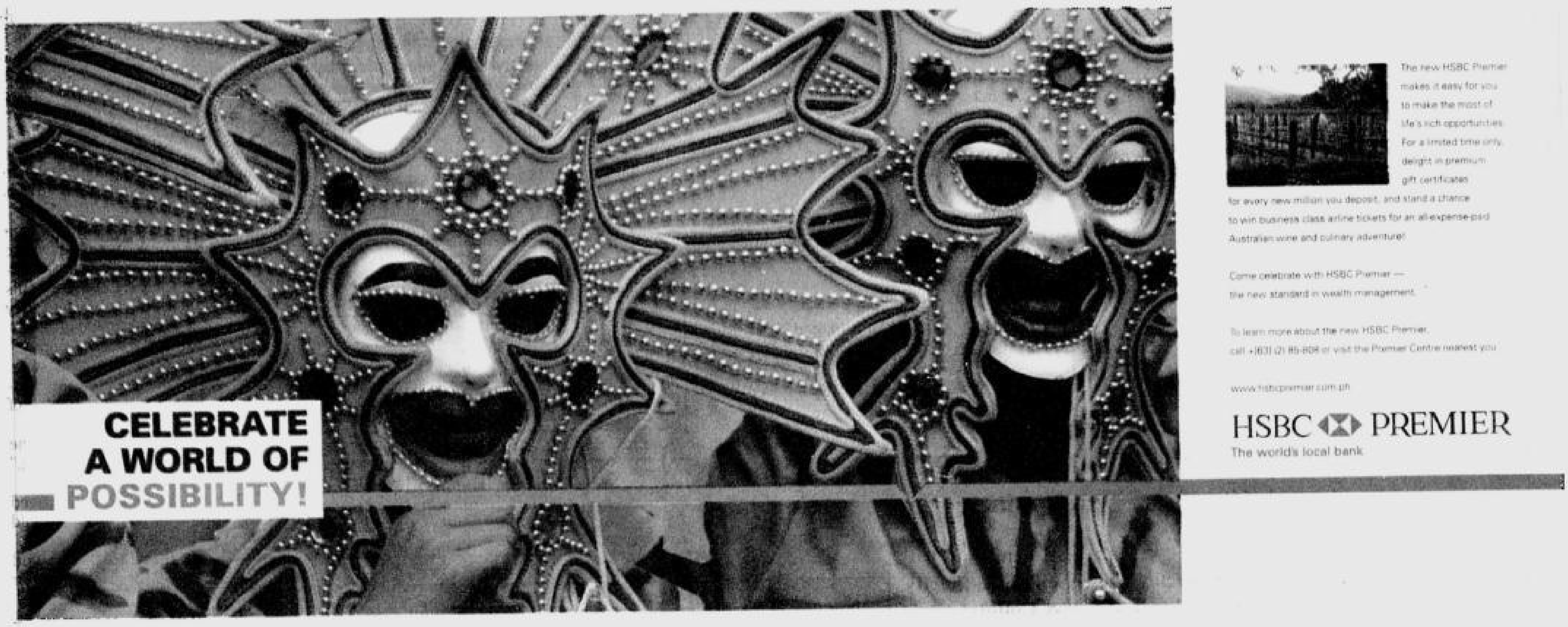
On Monday, Reyes told reporters that he could not just stop the project at this point, noting the mayors' endorsement. Talisay, Batangas, Mayor Florencio Matimtim is the project's main proponent.

The DENR chief pointed out that Taal's status as a protected area since 1986 did not prohibit its use for ecotourism projects so long as the developments were environmentally sound.

Reyes is scheduled to inspect the work site today to check on the project's compliance with its ECC.

The Department of Tourism has denied endorsing the spa project since it is within a "danger zone."

"The (DOT) adheres to the classification that Taal Volcano is active and a permanent danger zone and, therefore, will not endorse any project within and around the area that will put at risk both tourists and investors," the DOT said in a statement. *With reports from Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Jerome Aning, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*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PDI reporter did not post bail, court records show

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FORMER PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER provincial correspondent Jofelle Tesorio did not post bail, contrary to earlier reports, and that was why she was detained for 10 hours last week, court records showed.

Tesorio, facing libel charges filed by a Palawan congressman four years ago, could have avoided detention to the Quezon City Female Dormitory had she posted bail immediately after receiving an order early this year revoking her bail bond, said court staffers who showed INQUIRER the records.

The records of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 under Judge Maria Teresa Yadao showed that on Dec. 13, the judge issued an arrest warrant for Tesorio, who had failed to appear at the hearing scheduled that day, and revoked her P10,000 bond. The bond was doubled.

Tesorio, who now works for Asia News Network in Thailand, filed a motion for reconsideration of the order, explaining that she was unable to attend the hearing because she was in Hong Kong for a series of lectures. She attached her plane tickets, which indicated the date of her departure from the country on Dec. 9 and her return on Dec. 18.

She told the court, through her lawyer, that she attempted to catch a plane back to the country in time for the hearing but all flights were fully booked.

The judge denied the motion for lack of merit on Jan. 29 because the plane ticket itself indicated that the accused had no intention of returning to the country for the Dec. 13 hearing.

During the June 21 hearing, it was learned that Tesorio did not post the P20,000 bail.

"She could have posted bail at any time between January 29 and June 21 but she did not. It is part of court procedure to order the commitment of a person who had not yet posted bail," a staff member of Branch 81, who requested anonymity, explained.

Technically, Tesorio's bail had not yet been posted when the judge issued the commitment order, she added.

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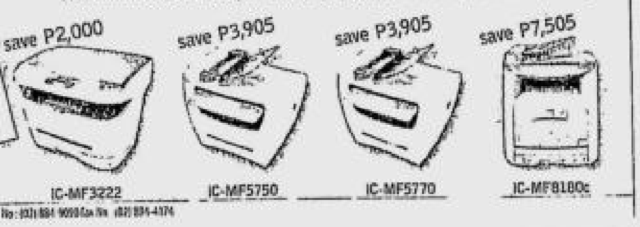

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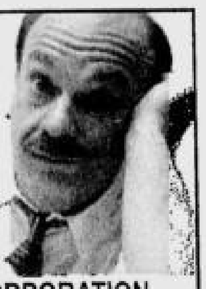

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND THE INSURANCE COMMISSION

In the last few weeks, the state of the insurance industry has been the subject of news releases and pronouncements. We, the various associations of insurance intermediaries (brokers and agents), are one with the insurance companies in voicing our concern over increasing regulations that potentially impact our operations, and ultimately increase the cost of insurance protection to the public.

These recent regulations include:

1. Re-imposition of minimum premium rates for Earthquake, Typhoon and Flood risks – In a global environment of borderless trade, the regulation of premium rates is almost an archaic throwback to the last century. These legislated prices result in a doubling of premium expenses for many policyholders, and do not reflect the actual level of insurance premium rates available from the international reinsurance markets, which are the fundamental determinant of the real cost of insurance. By allowing free and competitive economic forces, rather than government, to dictate premium rates, the insuring public is better served.

2. Requirement for insurance companies to obtain guarantee payment bonds from brokers and agents – For the premiums of insurance companies to qualify as admitted assets, they now have to secure surety bonds from their producing agents and brokers. These surety bonds involve a significant operating expense, as well as the encumbrance of cash collateral as security, and therefore pose a barrier particularly to the small- and mid-scale insurance agents and brokers who, despite their size, serve a segment of the insuring public who cannot otherwise access the larger agents and brokers.

3. Increase in Fees and Charges – Fees and charges for supervision, licensing and filing of annual statements have been excessively raised. For instance, license renewal fees for general agents have gone up by 1,000%, while license renewal fees for insurance brokers have gone up by 830%. License fees for new entrants have increased at twice these rates. In addition, an entirely new schedule of charges for supervision and for the submission of financial statements has been created. An arbitrary and material rise in fees inevitably increases the cost of doing business, and discourages the industry's growth and expansion that would have provided more choices of intermediaries to consumers.

We do not dispute that the government supervising agencies of any industry are empowered to issue directives to regulate the conduct of business, for as long as these are within the purview of applicable law and the Constitution. We are of the view, however, that prior consultation with the real participants and the principal channels through which insurance products are distributed – the insurance agents and insurance brokers – as well as an honest recognition of their views and positions, even if contrary to those of the regulator, are absolutely imperative for constructive industry reforms to succeed.

We are firm in our resolve to cooperate with the Insurance Commission in an atmosphere of dialogue and a free exchange of ideas.

Victorio C. Valledor
President
Association of Insurance Brokers of the Philippines

Augusto L. Toledo, II
President
Financial Insurance Intermediaries Association

Antonio B. Cabusao
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Society of Independent Insurance Intermediaries Phils., Inc.

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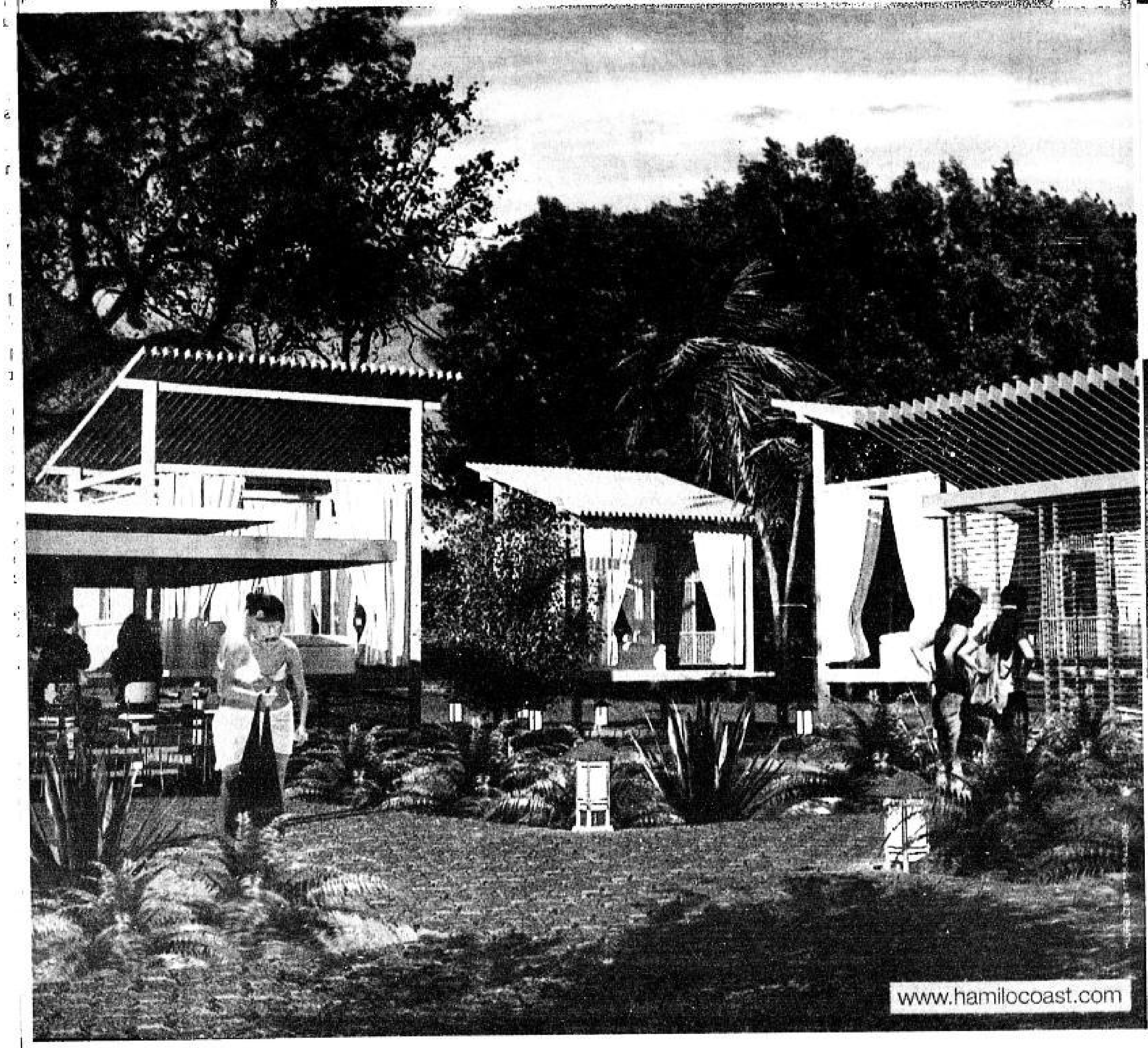

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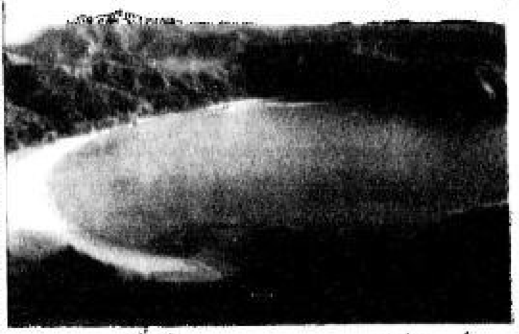

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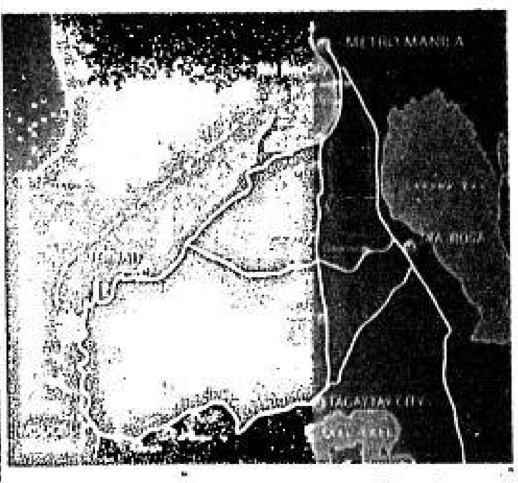

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Free them, moms of 2 missing UP coeds appeal to military

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ALONG WITH THE POLITICAL killings, the forced disappearances have brought much grief.

A tearful Erlinda Cadapan spoke with reporters yesterday, exactly a year after her two-months-pregnant daughter Sherlyn was abducted in Bulacan with her friend Karen Empeño, to air an appeal to the military to release her child.

Erlinda said that prior to her abduction, 30-year-old Sherlyn and her husband had worked as community organizers for the farmers group Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan.

She said that on April 11, Sherlyn suddenly showed up at her mother-in-law's house in Calumpit, Bulacan, and then disappeared again.

"My daughter was escorted by three women and a man, who accompanied her supposedly to get some of her clothes," Erlinda said in a press conference at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

She said Sherlyn was quiet despite her mother-in-law's questions on her whereabouts the past year and the identities of her companions.

A YEAR OF LIVING IN AGONY: The mothers of missing UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño call on the military to release their daughters during a press conference to mark the first anniversary of their forced disappearance. JOAN BONDOC

Embrace

"Sherlyn just embraced her husband's mother and left a few minutes past 8 p.m.," Erlinda said, then added with a piercing wail:

"Her mother-in-law was fortunate that she was able to embrace my daughter!"

Erlinda said men in military attire visited Sherlyn's mother-in-law the following day, asking about "suspected communists" who came to the house the previous night.

"They are doing their best to intimidate Sherlyn's loved ones," she said.

Erlinda said Sherlyn "looked thin and pale," and was without her baby. "I hope and pray that the military would not use her baby as a pawn to get her husband," she said.

"I believe that Sherlyn was made to go to her mother-in-law's house, on the military's orders, to locate her husband," she added.

Erlinda also said that on Monday, she went with members of the groups Desaparecidos and Karapatan and representatives of the Commission on Human Rights to conduct a search of military camps.

"But the soldiers just told us that they could not tell us anything," she said.

She expressed disappointment with the Court of Appeals' denial of their habeas corpus petition despite its finding that the soldier-respondents were "not telling the whole truth as they appeared evasive in their declarations."

Alive or dead

Karen's mother, Connie Empeño, was equally emotional during the press conference, appealing to the military to produce her 23-year-old daughter "alive or dead."

Likewise in tears, she said Erlinda Cadapan was "fortunate because she knows her daughter may still be alive."

Both Sherlyn and Karen were UP students at the time of their abduction.

Judge cites commanders criminally liable ...

From page A1

ing its use in order to hold commanders and police officers "criminally liable" for their subordinates' actions.

The judge sits on one of the 99 special tribunals designated by the Supreme Court to handle extrajudicial killings.

Pampilo said the summit on extrajudicial killings proposed by Chief Justice Reynato Puno would step up the judiciary's efforts.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said the summit was scheduled for July 16-17.

"In criminal law, a commander cannot be held liable if he is not a principal, an accomplice or an accessory. But [under] the principle of command responsibility, he may be held criminally liable if he tolerated, failed to prevent or played blind to extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances committed by his subordinates," Pampilo said.

He said the President, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was also covered by the principle but would be liable "only after he or she steps down from office."

Pampilo said the Melo Commission had recommended in its report the use of the command responsibility doctrine, which it defined thus:

"Responsibility for summary executions or disappearances extends beyond the person or persons who actually committed these acts. Anyone with higher authority who authorized, tolerated or ignored these acts are liable for them."

The Melo Commission was formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into the killings of leftist activists and journalists, which have drawn urgent concern from the international community.

Palparan

Pampilo is currently handling a case involving the killing of Edilberto "Choy" Napoles Jr., a member of the Alyansa sa Pagsulong sa Karapatan ng mga Mamamayan sa Mindoro Oriental, or Karapatan-Mo.

Napoles was shot dead on May 28, 2002. His companion, Ruel "Bitoy" Landicho, survived the attack.

Landicho later named the assailants as Larry Viena Aparato and Aniano Flores alias "Silver." Both at large, the two men were said to be soldiers belonging to the unit under then Col. Jovito Palparan and M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario.

In a statement, Landicho said he heard the voice of a man saying *"Tiyakin mong patay na yan* (Make sure they're dead)."

He said he overheard Aparato say, "OK *na, patay na yan* (They're dead)," and Flores respond, "OK, *matutuwa na niyan si* Colonel Palparan (Palparan will be pleased)," before fleeing.

Palparan (now retired) and Hilario were dropped as respondents by three Department of Justice prosecutors on Aug. 28, 2002.

In their resolution, state prosecutors Glenda Cabello-Marin, Melvin Abad and Sebastian Capulong said there was "no probable cause" to indict Palparan and Hilario because of "absence of clear and independent evidence of their participation in the conspiracy between [Aparato and Flores]."

"As correctly pointed out, Colonel Palparan's main function as commanding officer of the Philippine Army, 204th Infantry Brigade, is to maintain peace and order in the area, and in doing so, it is not farfetched that his name may be dragged into controversies if only to malign and discredit his person," the prosecutors said.

Judge Pampilo said the charges against Palparan and Hilario were dropped because there was "no concept of command responsibility at the time."

He said an executive order covering command responsibility in the military would make officers administratively liable for neglect of duty.

EO 226

Section 1 of EO 226 dated Feb. 17, 1995, states that "any [AFP] officer shall be held accountable for neglect of duty under the doctrine of command responsibility, if he has knowledge that a crime or offense shall be committed, is being committed, or has been committed by his subordinates, or by others within his area of responsibility and, despite such knowledge, he did not take preventive or corrective action either before, during or immediately after its commission."

Said Pampilo: "It should be stressed that a commander is duty-bound to closely monitor, supervise, direct, coordinate and control the overall activities of his subordinates within his area of operations, and can and shall be held administratively accountable for neglect of duty in taking appropriate action to discipline his men."

Pampilo, a lecturer at the University of the East law school, said that because there was actually "no law which concretizes that the commander may be held criminally liable," the command responsibility doctrine may be used.

He noted that activist lawyers led by Harry Roque had also said the command responsibility doctrine and the United Nations' universal declaration of human rights were enough to hold commanding officers answerable as well.

He said Roque cited Article 38 of the UN doctrine that holds the state liable, if the extrajudicial killings were declared by member-nations as "international wrongful acts."

Supreme Court summit

He said the summit—to be attended by judges from the special courts, military and police officials, human rights advocates, activists, and members of the Melo Commission and the police's Task Force Usig—would serve as a venue to discuss concrete steps to put a stop to the killings.

"The killings have to be stopped because the rule of law is being disrespected," the judge said in Filipino.

He added that the killings were "blasphemous to the courts," and that justice should be served by the courts, and not "through summary executions."

In Tagbilaran City, Rep. Satur Ocampo of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna welcomed the summit proposed by Chief Justice Puno. "[This] indicates the Supreme Court's determination to put a stop to extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations," he said.

Review of rules

Ocampo said a review of the rules of procedures to improve the chances of the victims' relatives to find justice by also making it harder for the perpetrators to escape responsibility was but proper and "a challenge to the judicial system."

Ocampo was in Bohol yesterday to meet with authorities looking into the killing of Mario Auxillo, the head of Bayan Muna in the province.

Auxillo, 50, was shot in the head and left arm at 11:30 p.m. on June 15 at the public market in Bien Unido town. He died two days later at the Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital.

His assailant, identified as one Hilario Diola, remains at large. *With a report from Kit Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas*

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 21 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Put up or shut up, JDV dares rival"—misstated that Luis R. Villafuerte represents a congressional district in Albay. Villafuerte represents the second district of Camarines Sur.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 24 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A12 of the Opinion section—"Unjust anachronism"—misstated that former INQUIRER correspondent Jofelle Tesorio was still detained at Camp Karingal in Quezon City. After posting bail, Tesorio was released on the evening of June 21.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 25 ISSUE, a front-page article—"Noted artists lead tree-planting feast in Puerto Princesa"—misstated the name of the award that some of the participants in the activity received. Some of those who participated in the tree-planting were recipients of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Thirteen Artists Awards—not the 13th Artist Award.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 27, 2007
12th Week in Ordinary Time
Cyril of Alexandria

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-12, 17-18
Gospel: Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of false prophets: they come to you in sheep's clothing but inside they are wild wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Do you ever pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

"A good tree always produces good fruit, a rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit and a rotten tree cannot bear good fruit. Any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So you will know them by their fruit."

Commentary

God blesses Abram but Abram is impatient for a child—he interprets God's promises of descendants in terms of a bloodline. God tells him to look at the stars for they will be those who shall come after him in faith. Abram has many questions about what he will have and he is instructed to make a covenant with Yahweh that is ancient, terrifying and primitive—this is a theophany, a revelation of God that is personal and yet bound to a people for the future. These are our roots.

Jesus tells us that we must be known by our deeds. We are no longer known by our blood ties, families, origins, nationalities, or personalities, but by what we do and say and who we align ourselves with in God's kingdom. You can tell a tree by its fruit—what have we been growing and offering to others (you can't eat your own fruit, only another's)?

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Pag-IBIG lowers loan rates

THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, popularly known as the Pag-IBIG Fund, has further lowered the interest rate on housing loans between P300,000 and P750,000 to seven percent, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

The last time Pag-IBIG cut interest rates on its housing loans was in November 2006.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the rate reduction was meant to make housing truly affordable and accessible to ordinary workers.

He said the latest cut in interest rates targeted members in the middle-income bracket or those earning P16,000 to P20,000 per month.

He said this group constituted 23 percent of the labor force based on the statistics of the National Statistics Office.

"This is the next logical step to take. Remember that in November 2006, we already addressed the affordability issue of the lower income brackets, or 77 percent of the work force, when we reduced the rate from nine to only six percent per annum for a P300,000 housing loan," De Castro said.

At seven percent, the monthly amortization, including principal and interest, is now down to P4,990 from P6,860 previously for housing loans of P500,000 to P750,000.

De Castro stressed, however, that carrying out "an honest to goodness interest reduction scheme" should also be complemented by streamlined loan requirements.

He directed Pag-IBIG Fund officials to look into the requirements of banks to see how the institution could further improve in this area.

Cynthia D. Balana

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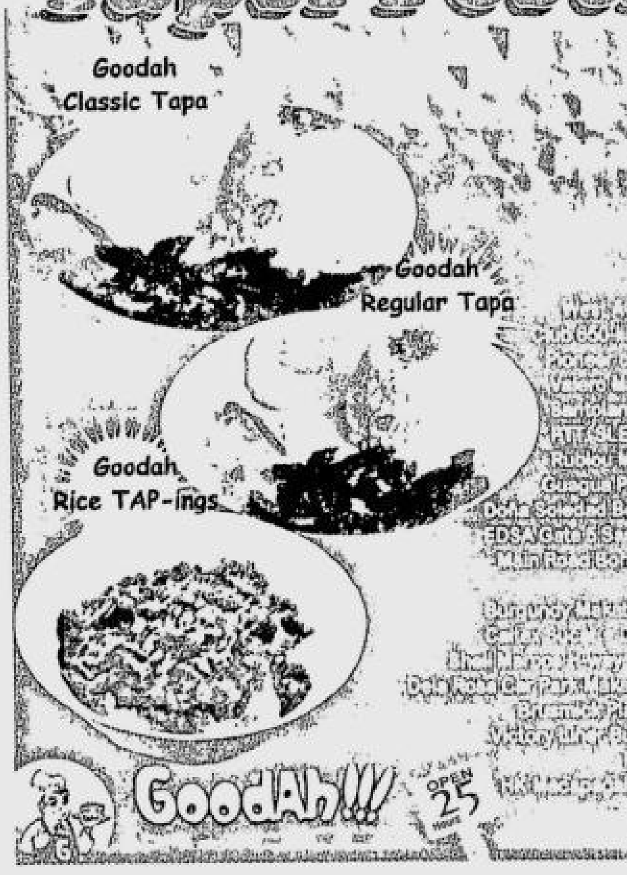

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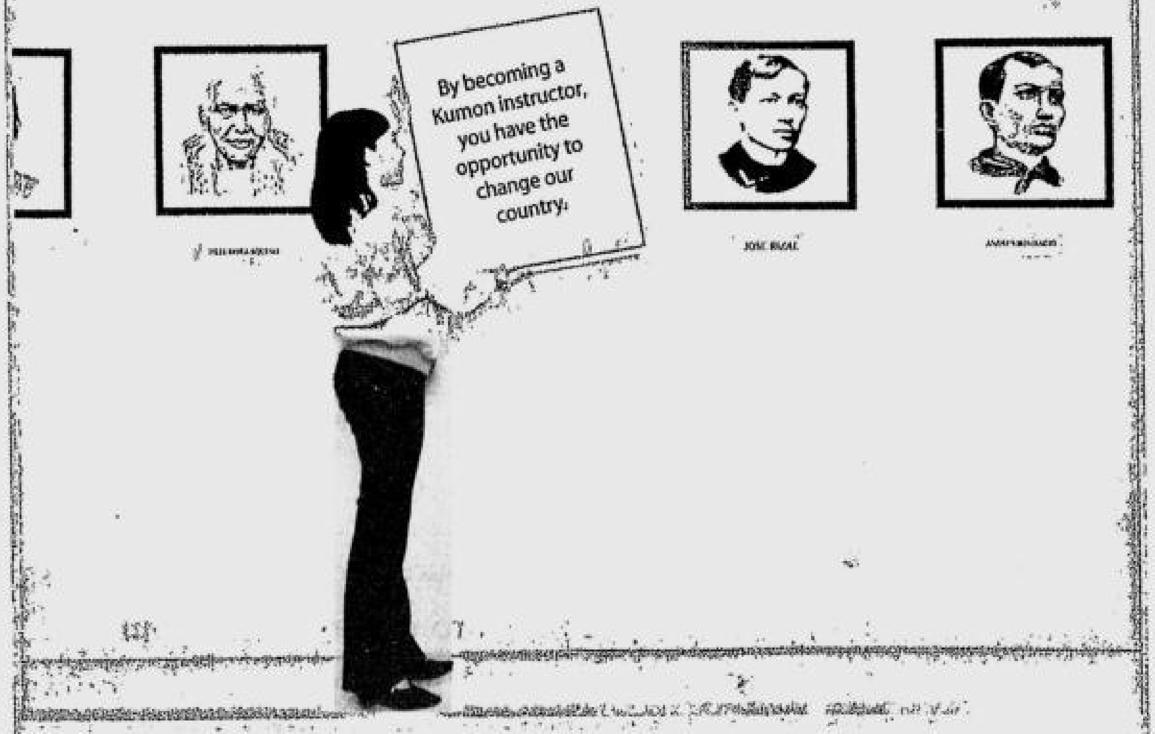
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NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 1		
9am-10:30am Negosyo Session For Carinderia **COCA-COLA**	9am-10:30am How To Make Your Menu More Nutricious **DATU PUTI**	9am-10:30am How to make more profit in your HORECA Business - **SAFI**
11am-12pm Grocery **NESTLE**-gosyo Session	11am-12pm Grocery **NESTLE**-gosyo Session	11am-12pm Grocery **NESTLE**-gosyo Session
1pm-2:30pm Food, Safety & Hygiene In your HORECA Business **DATU PUTI**	2pm-3pm Food Service Negosyo Session **NESTLE**	2pm-3pm Food Service Negosyo Session **NESTLE**
3pm-5pm Grocery and Food Service Negosyo Session **NESTLE**	4pm-5pm Negosyo Session **PUREFOODS SAN MIGUEL CORP.**	4pm-5pm **CDO** Challenge
5:30pm-7pm Negosyo Session for Carinderia **COCA-COLA**	5:30pm-7pm **CENTURY** Culinary Circle Kusina **ARGENTINA** Cooking Club	5:30pm-7pm Negosyo Session For Carinderia **COCA-COLA**
NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 3		
9am-10:30am PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE**	9am-9:30am Baking Demo **SAN MIGUEL CORP.**	9am-10:30am Basketball Power Camp Special Edition for Makro Members **ALASKA**
11am-1:30pm Makronomics Session **UNILEVER**	10:30am-12pm Makronomics Session **UNILEVER**	10:30am-11:30am **BANKARD** versus Cash Purchases
2pm-4pm Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari **COLGATE PALMOLIVE**	1pm-2pm Tabo-Tabo, Timba-Timba at Batya-Batyang Pangkabuhayan **3J PLASTIC WORLD**	11:30am-1pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE**
5:30pm-6pm Tipid at Lakas ng Negosyo Sagot ng **ALASKA**	2:30pm-4:30pm **DODO** is Negosyo **PTC COMMERCIAL CORP**	1pm-3pm **UNILEVER** Makronomics Session
	5pm-6pm Cooking Demo **Thai Agri**	4pm-5pm Meet & Greet **SAN MIGUEL CORP.**

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 2		
9am-10:30am EXCLUSIVE FGD (by invitation only) **J&J**	9:30am-10:30am Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari **COLGATE - PALMOLIVE**	9am-10:30am Negosyo Session For Carinderia **COCA-COLA**
11am-12:30pm Business Solution for Todays Entrepreneurs **GLOBE TELECOM**	12pm-2pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session **UNILEVER**	10:30am-12pm Merchandising Session **UNILEVER**
1pm-2:30pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session **UNILEVER**	2:30pm-4pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE**	1pm-2:30pm Dagdag Negosyo para sa inyo handog ng **GREPALIFE**
4pm-5pm Cooking Demo **SAN MIGUEL**		3pm-5pm White King Products Cooking Demo **RFM Corp.**
5:30pm-6pm Nutrition for Better Healthcare **UNITED PET FOOD**	5:30pm-6pm Dogfood for Care or Toxins **UNITED PET FOOD**	5:30pm-6pm Values of Pet Nutrition **UNITED PET FOOD**
SPECIAL EVENTS AREA		
9am-10am OPENING CEREMONY (by invitation)	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance **NESTLE**	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance **NESTLE**
10am-1pm Cooking Demo **AJI-NO-MOTO**	1pm-2:30pm Cooking Demo featuring Thailand's Top Celebrity Chef Mr. Walter Lee **VENTURETEC**	1pm-4:30pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE**
1:30pm-3pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE**	3pm-5pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE**	5pm-7pm Bartending Championship
3:30pm-5pm 101 Ways of Preparing Chicken **BOUNTY FRESH CHICKEN**	5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations	
5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations		

Store Location	CDM	Cell.No.	Tel.No.	Store Location	CDM	Cell.No.	Tel.No.
Cainta	Jeanne	0917-820-3201	(02) 656-7451	Batangas	Marianne	0917-820-3209	(043) 722-1611
Imus	Lenie	0917-820-3202	(043) 515-2222	CDO	Abby	0917-820-3210	(088) 858-1356
Novaliches	Lea	0917-891-3203	(02) 936-2624	Iloilo	Mereuel	0917-820-3211	(033) 329-2701
Sucat	Ming	0917-820-3204	(02) 850-6570	Cubao	Mario	0917-820-3212	(02) 911-8113
Harbour Centre	Vince	0917-820-3205	(02) 256-3106	Las Piñas	Elvie	0917-820-3213	(02) 874-9266
Cebu	Jess	0917-820-3206	(032) 345-9540	Makati	Darwin	0917-820-3214	(02) 887-7413
Davao	Edgar	0917-820-3207	(082) 298-3560	Mandaluyong	Reisan	0917-820-3215	(02) 535-7217
Pampanga	Marcel	0917-820-3208	(045) 625-5144				

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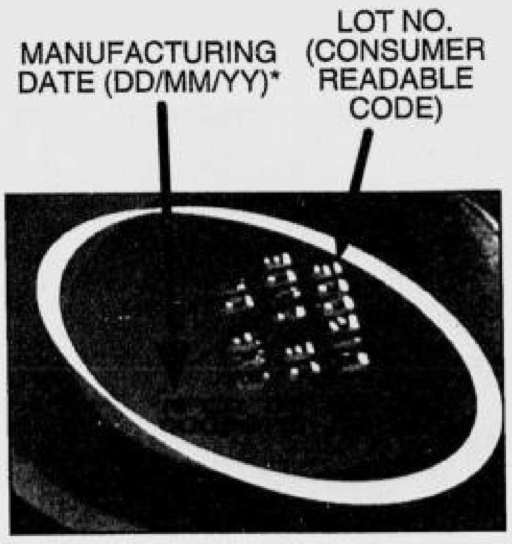
If you have any of the following Wyeth formula: Bonna™, Bonamil™, Bonakid™, Promil™, Promil™ Gold, Progress™ Gold and Promil™ Kid carrying one of the Lot Nos. (Consumer Readable Code) listed herein, please return it to an authorized Wyeth distributor or retailer for replacement. You may also call the Wyeth CareLine at 81-WYETH (81-99384) or the toll-free number 1-800-10-8842222 for immediate assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The safety of our Filipino children is our highest priority. Wyeth will continue to manufacture its products to the highest quality standards.

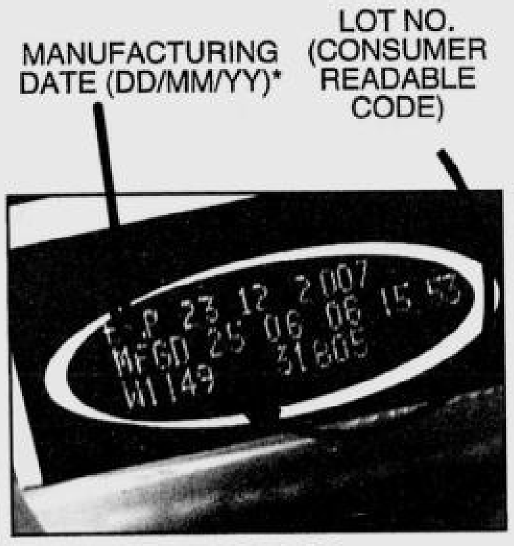
With your support, we will continue to play a valuable role in the nutrition of Filipino children.

Sincerely,

P. M. de Claro
President & General Manager
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.


MANUFACTURING DATE (DD/MM/YY)*
LOT NO. (CONSUMER READABLE CODE)

CAN


MANUFACTURING DATE (DD/MM/YY)*
LOT NO. (CONSUMER READABLE CODE)
E.P 23 12 2007
MFGD 25 06 06 15:53
W1149 31805

BOX FLAP

LOT NO. (CONSUMER READABLE CODE)

SACHET

Please check the bottom of the can, box flap or sachet of your Wyeth product for the Manufacturing Date and the Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)

* Please note the manufacturing date shown on the containers is DD/MM/YY. The lots listed on the opposite page show the date as MM/DD/YY.

WYETH FORMULA LOTS
INCLUDED IN THE BFAD RECALL ORDER

BONAKID™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W1116	06-1116	05/16/06
W1126	06-1126	05/21/06
W1129	06-1129	05/22/06
W1130	06-1130	05/23/06
W1131	06-1131	05/23/06
W1132	06-1132	05/24/06
W1133	06-1133	05/24/06
W1134	06-1134	05/25/06
W1135	06-1135	05/26/06
W1136	06-1136	05/26/06
W1139	06-1139	06/21/06
W1141	06-1141	06/22/06
W1142	06-1142	06/22/06
W1143	06-1143	06/23/06
W1144	06-1144	06/23/06
W1146A	06-1146	06/24/06
W1147	06-1147	06/24/06
W1148	06-1148	06/24/06
W1149	06-1149	06/25/06
W1150	06-1150	06/25/06
W1151	06-1151	06/26/06
W1155	06-1155	06/27/06
W1158	06-1158	06/28/06
W1159	06-1159	06/29/06
W1160	06-1160	06/30/06
W1162	06-1162	06/30/06
W1163	06-1163	07/22/06
W1164	06-1164	07/22/06
W1166	06-1166	07/22/06
W1167	06-1167	07/23/06
W1168	06-1168	07/23/06
W1169	06-1169	07/23/06
W1170A	06-1170	07/24/06
W1171	06-1171	07/23/06
W1172	06-1172	07/24/06
W1173	06-1173	07/24/06
W1174	06-1174	07/24/06
W1175	06-1175	07/24/06
W1176	06-1176	07/25/06
W1177	06-1177	07/25/06
W1178	06-1178	07/26/06
W1179	06-1179	07/26/06
W1180	06-1180	07/26/06

BONAMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
50060854	50060854	10/19/05
50060855	50060855	10/20/05
50060856	50060856	10/21/05
50060857	50060857	10/24/05
W0055	06-0055	04/25/06
W0065	06-0065	05/01/06
W0078	06-0078	05/22/06
W0081	06-0081	05/23/06
W0082	06-0082	05/24/06
W0083	06-0083	05/25/06
W0084	06-0084	05/25/06
W0085	06-0085	05/25/06
W0102	06-0102	06/16/06
W0104	06-0104	06/17/06
W0105	06-0105	06/17/06
W0106	06-0106	06/19/06
W0107	06-0107	06/19/06
W0108	06-0108	06/20/06
W0109	06-0109	06/21/06

BONAMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W0110	06-0110	06/21/06
W01101	06-0110	06/22/06
W0111	06-0111	06/22/06
W0111A	06-0111	06/22/06
W0112	06-0112	06/22/06
W0113	06-0113	06/23/06
W0114	06-0114	06/23/06
W0115	06-0115	06/24/06
W0116	06-0116	06/25/06
W0117	06-0117	06/25/06
W0118	06-0118	06/25/06
W0120	06-0120	07/14/06
W0121	06-0121	07/15/06
W0122	06-0122	07/15/06
W0123	06-0123	07/15/06
W0124	06-0124	07/16/06
W0125	06-0125	07/16/06
W0126	06-0126	07/17/06
W0127	06-0127	07/17/06
W0128	06-0128	07/18/06
W0131	06-0131	07/19/06
W0133	06-0133	07/21/06
W0134	06-0134	07/21/06

BONNA™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W4133	06-4133	06/07/06
W4135	06-4135	06/08/06
W4138	06-4138	06/09/06
W4140	06-4140	06/11/06
W4143	06-4143	06/12/06
W4145	06-4145	06/13/06
W4151	06-4151	06/27/06
W4156	06-4156	06/29/06
W4160	06-4160	07/01/06
W4161	06-4161	07/01/06
W4162	06-4162	07/02/06
W4166	06-4166	07/09/06
W4167	06-4167	07/04/06
W4169	06-4169	07/05/06
W4170	06-4170	07/05/06
W4171	06-4171	07/06/06
W4172A	06-4172	07/07/06
W4174	06-4174	07/09/06
W4176	06-4176	07/10/06
W4177	06-4177	07/10/06
W4178	06-4178	07/11/06
W4179	06-4179	07/11/06
W4180	06-4180	07/12/06
W4181	06-4181	07/12/06
W4182	06-4182	07/13/06
W4183	06-4183	07/13/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12013	06-12013	06/09/06
W12014	06-12014	06/10/06
W12015	06-12015	06/10/06
W12016	06-12016	06/10/06
W12017	06-12017	06/11/06
W12018	06-12018	06/11/06
W12019	06-12019	06/11/06
W12020	06-12020	06/12/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12021	06-12021	06/13/06
W12022	06-12022	07/16/06
W12023	06-12023	07/17/06
W12024	06-12024	07/17/06
W12026	06-12026	07/18/06
W12027	06-12027	07/19/06
W12028	06-12028	07/19/06
W12029	06-12029	07/19/06
W12030	06-12030	07/19/06
W12032	06-12032	07/21/06

PROMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W8020	06-8020	07/25/06
W8021	06-8021	07/26/06
W8023	06-8023	07/26/06

PROMIL™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W2012	06-2012	07/12/06
W2013	06-2013	07/13/06
W2014	06-2014	07/14/06
W2015	06-2015	07/14/06
W2016	06-2016	07/14/06
W2017	06-2017	07/14/06
W2018	06-2018	07/14/06
W2021	06-2021	07/16/06
W2022	06-2022	07/16/06
W2025	06-2025	07/31/06

PROMIL™ KID

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W13034	06-13034	03/08/06
W13087	06-13087	06/14/06
W13088	06-13088	06/14/06
W13089	06-13089	06/15/06
W13090	06-13090	06/15/06
W13090A	06-13090	06/16/06
W13091	06-13091	06/16/06
W13092	06-13092	06/16/06
W13093	06-13093	06/16/06
W13094	06-13094	06/17/06
W13095	06-13095	06/17/06
W13096	06-13096	06/18/06
W13097	06-13097	06/18/06
W13099	06-13099	07/01/06
W13102	06-13102	07/02/06
W13105	06-13105	07/04/06
W13107A	06-13107	07/05/06
W13108	06-13108	07/05/06
W13109	06-13109	07/05/06
W13110	06-13110	07/06/06
W13111	06-13111	07/06/06
W13112	06-13112	07/06/06
W13113	06-13113	07/07/06
W13114	06-13114	07/07/06
W13115	06-13115	07/08/06
W13116	06-13116	07/08/06
W13117	06-13117	07/09/06
W13119	06-13119	07/10/06
W13120	06-13120	07/11/06
W13121	06-13121	07/13/06

Opposition lawyers quit but canvass continues

From page A1

tition to stop the canvassing and exclude the votes from Maguindanao in the Senate tabulation.

"These proceedings are loaded. They are meant to legitimize the Bedol CoC, maybe *bawasan ng konti ang mga boto* (shave the votes a bit) ... Solved *na si* Zubiri,"a frustrated Neri Colmenares, Bayan Muna lawyer, told the INQUIRER after he walked out of the provincial capitol's session hall where the canvassing was being held.

Colmenares was referring to Maguindanao's controversial election supervisor Lintang Bedol, who claimed he had lost to thieves the first copies of the Maguindanao CoCs.

Colmenares abandoned the proceedings hours after GO counsel Sixto Brillantes and Leila de Lima left for Manila, saying they had to attend to other election cases.

But De Lima left with a parting shot.

She pointed out to the special provincial board of canvassers the discrepancies in the votes received by Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV in tallies from Gen. SK Pendatun town.

De Lima said these could be "additional evidence that the municipal CoC was manufactured."

The board spent much of their discussions yesterday on the party-list issue and could tabulate only the senatorial tallies from Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Pagagawan. The board tabulated results from only three towns the other day.

Colmenares walked out after the board, led by Comelec lawyer Emilio Santos, denied Bayan Muna's objection to the retabulation of votes in 16 municipalities where the total votes cast for party-list groups overshot the total number of registered voters.

Santos explains

Colmenares said that among these towns was Pagalungan, where counting of votes only took place in 19 of its 57 precincts, according to a report of school district supervisor Musa Dimasidsing.

Dimasidsing was later gunned down in Lanao del Norte.

Colmenares wanted the board to defer the canvassing—as what it did to the Shariff Aguak CoC on Monday—because of the discrepancies.

But Santos told the INQUIRER that the board's only mandate was to canvass Maguindanao's municipal CoCs as long as they appeared regular on their face.

"We cannot go beyond that," Santos said.

Santos said that all objections regarding vote discrepancies could be raised before the National Board of Canvassers subcommittee for party-lists.

Santos said the special canvassing would continue and be considered legitimate even without representatives from the opposition and the party-list as they had been duly notified of the proceedings.

According to the Comelec's last official tabulation in Manila, Pimentel leads Zubiri by more than 111,000 votes, without counting Maguindanao.

Lawyers from both camps agree that Zubiri would jump to 12th place if the Maguindanao votes are tabulated. In an unofficial Maguindanao tally shown by lawyers to reporters, Zubiri has 195,823 votes and Pimentel 67,057.

Maguindanao became a center of controversy after several school teachers in the town of Pagalungan told media and poll watchdog groups that armed men had seized their ballot boxes and filled out the ballots with the names of TU candidates, to ensure a 12-0 administration win in the province.

If Zubiri wins ...

If Zubiri wins because of Maguindanao, Colmenares said "it would affect the credibility of his election."

TU lead counsel George Garcia said nothing could change the mind of the opposition that the Maguindanao votes were rigged.

"When the canvassing began, that was already in their minds. You can't change that anymore. Their thinking has always been the result is false, a hoax. What can we do?" Garcia said.

Garcia said that after perusal of the 22 CoCs, he was convinced that these were genuine and authentic documents.

Moreover, checking the vote tallies, Garcia said he saw that several towns gave more votes to GO candidates than to TU candidates.

In its resolution, the Supreme Court directed the Comelec and Zubiri, if he desires, to file their comments on Pimentel's petition by noon on Thursday.

The high court said it would only be fair to get the side of the Comelec and Zubiri before issuing any TRO since there were factual and legal matters in Pimentel's petition that needed to be resolved first.

"Accordingly, and considering the presumptive regularity of the Comelec's assailed actions and the processes emanating therefrom, it is only fair that the Court, before it considers the propriety of issuing a TRO, accords the Comelec an opportunity to be heard by way of a written comment," it said in a June 26 resolution.

Don't preempt court ruling

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said the high court was banking on the poll body not to do anything that would make the court's action useless, when asked if the issue could be rendered moot should the Comelec finished the canvassing of Maguindanao votes before Thursday.

"We are hoping that with the order of the court, they will act accordingly and will not do anything to preempt the decision of the high court," Marquez told reporters.

"The fact that the case is being set for oral argument would be enough for the Comelec to act accordingly."

In a 13-age petition, reelected opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson asked the Comelec to dissolve the special provincial board of canvassers (SPBOC) for Maguindanao on grounds it was illegally created.

Lacson also asked the Comelec to not to canvass anymore the results from the Maguindanao, nullify the board's proceedings and quickly proclaim the last winning senator.

Lacson said the Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, did not have the authority to form the SPBOC, that its creation was not needed and that the Commission committed grave abuse of discretion when it turned over the second copies of the municipal vote tallies it gathered from Maguindanao to the SPBOC for retabulation. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning*

Bedol roams freely despite Comelec's arrest order

From page A1

appeared to be roaming freely around the Maguindanao capital of Shariff Aguak, giving interviews to the INQUIRER on Monday night and the following day and also going to his office in the provincial capitol. Yesterday, he arrived at his office at 9 a.m.

The CoCs, or vote tallies, would ostensibly support the contention of the administration's Team Unity (TU) ticket that its senatorial candidates had scored a 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao.

In Shariff Aguak, Bedol appeared unfazed by the arrest order.

"*Sige* (Go ahead). That means they have plans to file a case against me. I can post bail," he told the INQUIRER.

"Maybe I can ask for *piso-piso* (P1) donations from friends," added Bedol, who said he would go to Davao today for a medical checkup.

The controversial Maguindanao election supervisor suffered a stroke last year that partly impaired his speech.

Ferrer said Bedol, who is also facing dismissal from his post, could be penalized for six months in jail for contempt.

He also faces a possible criminal case for infidelity in the custody of documents and another case for illegal possession of firearms, Ferrer said. *(See related story on Page A10.)*

On top of all that, Bedol could be slapped with a 60-day preventive suspension upon the filing of the cases, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said.

Comelec officials said they had other plans for dealing with Bedol.

"We would like to surprise him," Ferrer said. "Let us see what he will do. I think he will start cringing like a cornered rat."

Blitzkrieg moves

The seemingly blitzkrieg moves against Bedol came a day after he challenged his detractors, in an interview with the INQUIRER, to sue him in court, saying he was ready to face his accusers.

Ferrer, head of Task Force Maguindanao that looked into allegations of vote fraud in the province, said the Comelec was "planning something" that would test Bedol's "bravery."

Bedol had told the INQUIRER he owned more than 20 guns for his protection and had a gun strapped to his waist during the interview.

Yesterday, Bedol backtracked on his claim, saying he only had two registered pistols and that he no longer had the other firearms, which he said he had needed before when elections were hotly contested in Maguindanao.

Challenge accepted

Ferrer said the poll body held Bedol in contempt for repeatedly defying its orders.

"We have been giving him all the chances to defend himself. Unfortunately, he prefers to challenge this commission and we accept his challenge," an incensed Ferrer told reporters.

Acting on the recommendation that Bedol be indicted for infidelity in the custody of documents, Abalos directed the Comelec legal department to file the case in the courts.

Bedol has washed his hands of any liability in the loss of the documents.

"He claims that he is not the custodian, but he is by appropriating for himself the municipal certificates of canvass," Ferrer stressed.

Irked by Bedol's "bragging" about his small personal armory, Ferrer said: "Is this the brave Bedol that he claims to be? *Kung talagang matapang siya, bakit siya nagtatago sa lunga* (If he is really brave, why is he hiding in a hole)?"

Interviewed in his office yesterday, Bedol said that Ferrer's Task Force Maguindanao should go and talk to the teachers and supposed whistle-blowers to find out for itself if massive electoral fraud did take place during the May elections.

His now familiar pistol strapped to his waist, Bedol said he had not been notified of the task force's decision to relieve him as Maguindanao's chief election official.

"*Bahala sila*. They can do that (dismiss him). It's an administrative prerogative which can be done by any manager ... It's good because you can rest," Bedol said, smiling.

Seated behind his empty table, Bedol said there was no reason for the Comelec not to be able to find him.

"They know where the capitol is. It's not possible they don't know where my office is," he said.

Bedol said that of late, he had not received any Comelec subpoena compelling him to appear in Manila for an investigation.

He said it was only in court that he would certainly "get justice."

"*OK lang maalis ako* (It's OK if I am removed). I'll see to it that I will fight (the accusations). It is not in my nature to make things easy for my enemies," he said.

Bedol vowed to answer "each and every detail" of any accusations against him.

He stressed he wanted his accusers to face him in court without covering their faces with shawls as some of them had done in television interviews. He was referring to several teachers who spoke out about alleged cheating in Maguindanao.

Some of those teachers had reportedly gone into hiding for fear of their lives. A school official who supported the teachers' claims, Maguindanao Schools District Supervisor Musa Dimasidsing, was gunned down on June 9.

Bedol said he welcomed the investigation to uncover the truth.

Deeper probe

"I am happy with the investigation because it will correct whatever wrong has happened and to prevent a repetition of all this," he said in Filipino.

Bedol urged the task force to "go further, go deeper" in its probe.

"Get the testimony of the people. I also want every error corrected. Go back to what happened on election day. Talk to the teachers, the supposed witnesses. Talk to the people and ask how the alleged cheating and alleged manufacturing of documents were done and not just focus on the regional director and the election supervisor," he said.

He said the task force should also get the testimonies of the poll watchdogs and barangay officials.

"Why are they hammering on the supervisor? What have I got to do with it?" Bedol said.

As chair of the provincial board of canvassers, Bedol said he cannot inquire into the incidents of voting in precincts.

He said if there was a changing of vote tallies, it could have only been done at the "lower stages" of the counting, not at the provincial canvassing level, since his tabulation was based on the municipal certificates of canvass submitted.

Zero votes possible

Again, Bedol said it was possible to get zero votes in Maguindanao, especially if the candidates did not bother to campaign.

Bedol said he saw TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri and Prospero Pichay campaign in Maguindanao and that Pichay even met with Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr.

"Going into the house to be welcomed by the governor is important to people here," Bedol said.

"In Islam, we only believe in three things—the Koran, the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the duly constituted authorities. It is important that one meets with our leader," he said, explaining how Muslims choose their candidates.

Bedol in trouble over private arsenal

By Alcuin Papa

WHEN IT RAINS, IT REALLY pours for Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol.

The controversial poll official could find himself in deeper trouble after he claimed to own more than 20 guns in an interview with the INQUIRER the other day.

The Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) confirmed yesterday that only two guns were licensed to Bedol: One short firearm and one long firearm.

Because of this, FED director Chief Supt. Florencio Caccam said Bedol should be held liable for illegal possession of firearms.

According to Caccam, an individual can own two guns. If there is a grave threat to his life, he can own a maximum of 10 guns.

Exceptions to the 10-gun rule, Caccam said, are members of gun clubs. But he said that any guns in excess of 10 "should be kept in a safe" of the gun club.

It was not known if Bedol was a member of a gun club.

Teachers risk lives in classrooms without borders

From page A1

In separate interviews, several MTs who attended a recent workshop (on improving the ALS curriculum) at the DepEd headquarters in Pasig City said they were not just public school teachers.

Multitasking

"We double as social, health and rural development workers, community organizers and public information officers, among other tasks, to our target learners and other disadvantaged groups not reached by the formal school system," said 32-year-old Jasmen Borda-Molo of San Fernando, Romblon.

Arnold Montemayor, 41, of Floridablanca, Pampanga, said the MTs "have gotten used to multitasking.

"Being multiskilled is a must for MTs," said Amorsolo Adre, a native of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. "At times, we also function as family counselors," said Adre, a former Sangguniang Kabataan chair.

The other workshop participants included Henry Tura of Basilan; Santiago Sabao of Cardona, Rizal; Jenelyn Baylon of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; Sherwin Roxas of San Jose del Monte City; Marlyn Lozada of Liliw, Laguna; Marissa Comidoy of New Corella, Davao del Norte; Oliver Palad of Guagua, Pampanga; Christian Roxas of Sta. Maria, Laguna, and Roderic Guinucay of Tuguegarao.

Lapus cited mobile teachers for providing "better education for our people beyond the call of duty."

"For nothing epitomizes our dedication and sense of duty than the hardworking men and women who make up our ALS," he said.

MTs "function like the US Peace Corps Volunteers," said Dr. Carolina Guerrero, head of the newly established Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS), formerly the Bureau of Non-Formal Education.

At the recent National Summit on the ALS at Teachers Camp in Baguio City, Lapus stressed the need for "upgrading the personal and professional welfare of our mobile teachers."

"This starts with ALS being integrated in the pre-service teacher education curriculum ... We also need to provide more relevant training and welfare packages for our current and future mobile teachers," he said.

Starting with only 300 facilitators in 1998, the mobile teaching force grew to a little over 600 in five years.

The Bicol region currently tops the list with 71 mobile teachers, followed by Central Luzon with 66, Southern Tagalog with 65, Western Visayas with 64, and Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas, both with 54.

This year, the DepEd plans to hire an additional 507 mobile teachers.

ALS is a parallel learning system that provides a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction, encompassing both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

CLASSROOM WITHOUT BORDERS: Public school teachers like Arnold Montemayor with his Aeta students in Floridablanca, Pampanga, are the "force behind the Alternative Learning System," says Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ALS curriculum covers the following learning areas: communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving, sustainable use of resources, development of self and sense of community, and expanding one's world vision.

In contrast, the basic education curriculum focuses on five major subjects—English, Filipino, Science, Mathematics and Makabayan.

ALS is the "other side of basic education," Lapus said.

"Without it, we can never achieve our Education-for-All targets. The limitations of our public school system and the limited resources we have for our public schools prevent us from really addressing the needs of many of our people," he said.

This is "where you in ALS are expected to provide the solutions—in areas of conflict, in indigenous people communities and in areas where literacy is most wanting and where literacy is needed most," the education secretary said.

ALS gets P230 million

This year, the Arroyo administration has allocated some P230 million for the ALS program.

The amount is only 0.17 percent of the 2007 allocation for basic education (P134.7 billion), but three times bigger than the BALS budget of P76 million in 2006.

"While we know that our OSY population is in the area of 14 million, BALS can only serve in the tens of thousands each year, precisely because we have little to spend for alternative learning," Lapus said.

"And while we continue to find ways of bringing these young boys and girls back to the formal school system, we also know that many of them will choose not to, simply because their living situations prevent them from doing so—and this is a reality we must sooner or later face," he said.

Nomadic people

The education secretary said "there are those living in conflict areas, especially in Muslim Mindanao. There are those who have peculiar educational needs like nomadic peoples from cultural minority groups who cannot attend the formal school most of us have attended."

Lapus said many other marginalized learners required the DepEd to provide alternative modes of education that can provide them with the literacy to become productive in society.

Today, he lamented that the "ALS is not yet generally accepted as legitimate learning by both our policy workers and the general public."

"We therefore need to increase public awareness of ALS so that there will be more public acceptance of our various alternative learning modes. This campaign, therefore, will require a lot of our time and effort," he said.

Lapus has been actively campaigning for ALS in recent weeks "to get the word out that it is a legitimate form of learning."

ALS ambassador

"This is precisely why I had personally asked (boxing hero) Manny Pacquiao to become DepEd's ambassador for the ALS," he said.

Lapus said "DepEd's message is very simple—'Do we wait until 80 percent of Filipinos require nonformal education before we take ALS seriously?'"

Unimpressed

Like some DepEd old-timers, however, the militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) is not impressed.

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong ACT, said that "while the recent establishment of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System signifies that the DepEd is now taking responsibility for out-of-school youth and adults, its resources and capabilities are utterly inadequate."

"The Arroyo administration has so far failed to come up with a response commensurate to the magnitude of the problem, considering that there are over 16 million functionally illiterate Filipinos," Tinio said.

This is "compounded by the fact that there has been a steep rise in dropout rates in public schools in the last five years," he said.

Protestant ministers decry surveillance

By Alcuin Papa

PROTESTANT CHURCH LEADERS HAVE complained of harassment by persons watching their offices.

Protestant ministers headed by Bishop Eleazar Pascua, general secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), met with Philippine National Police officers yesterday to complain that some of their pastors and church workers in Cavite and Muntinlupa were under some kind of surveillance.

They said workers at their Quezon City headquarters also reported seeing men on motorcycles circling their neighborhood.

Pascua told reporters this may be an offshoot of their church groups being tagged as "enemies of the state" by security forces.

"This has been going on for a long time. And it has been a source of apprehension for us. How can church workers be considered enemies of the state?" Pascua said, stressing that Protestant church groups were involved only in "faith-related works and services."

UCCP Pastor Ephraim Guerrero, a brother of Pastor Berlin Guerrero who was arrested last month, said their work was focused on "faithfulness to the Gospel and the poor."

"It just so happens that some of these marginalized persons are members of militant groups. But why should we be tagged as communist?" Guerrero said.

The ministers also questioned the police findings in the investigation into two high-profile cases involving the killing and abduction of religious.

Henry Janiola, a representative of the Philippine Independent Church (also known as the Aglipayan Church), questioned the police finding that the death of Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento last year occurred during a robbery.

Ramento, a human rights advocate and a critic of the Arroyo administration, was stabbed to death in his convent in Tarlac in October.

Four suspects were arrested and charged with homicide and robbery.

Janiola said there could be more to the killing as the bishop had been getting death threats on his cell phone.

"It was not just a plain robbery because the convent in Tarlac is dilapidated. Who would be interested in stealing anything there?" Janiola said.

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said Ramento's coworkers should have cooperated with the police and told investigators about the death threats.

"Show your witnesses who can testify that the bishop received those messages. Without them and their testimony, we will have to go back to robbery and homicide," Razon said.

Representatives of the UCCP also questioned the arrest and detention of Pastor Berlin Guerrero.

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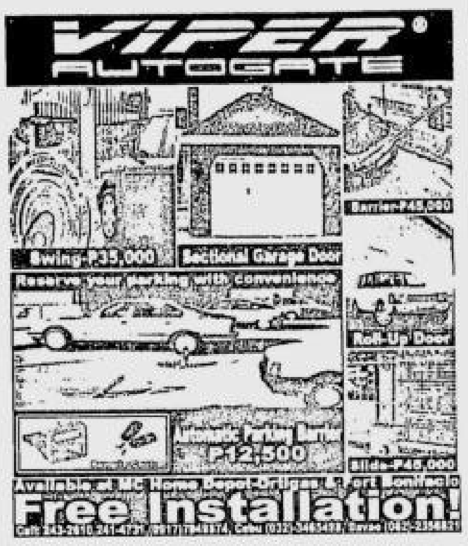

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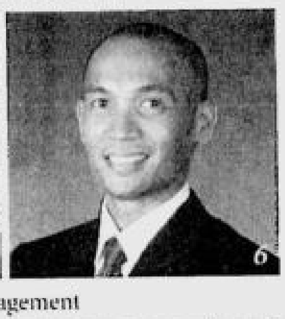

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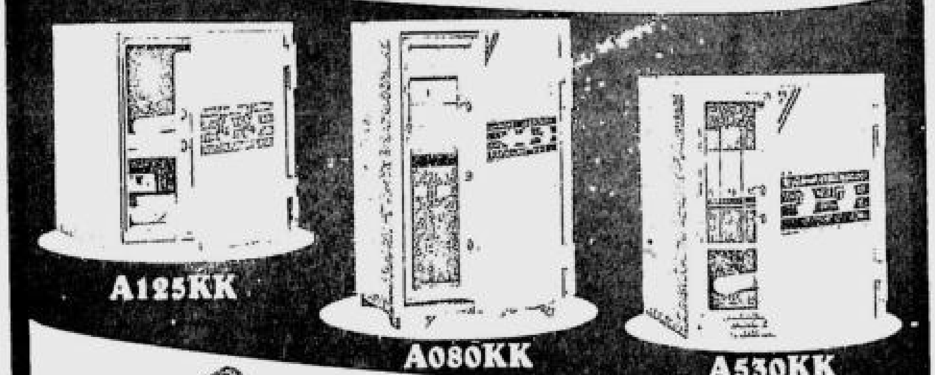

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Top US officer tours former Abu camp

THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMmander traveled to a captured jungle camp of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group on Jolo island yesterday, seeing evidence of the damage wrought by a US-backed offensive on the extremist group which is suspected of links to the al-Qaida international terror network.

Adm. Timothy Keating, accompanied by US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Filipino generals, inspected bunkers, trenches and secret tunnels in the former encampment of the Abu Sayyaf on Mount Tugas near Patikul town, according to accompanying officials and journalists.

Keating, who used a broken tree branch as a cane to help him hike through forest trails to the camp, was the highest US military officer to make the trip to a known hotbed of extremists near Patikul.

Battle-ready US and Philippine troops guarded Keating and the other visitors, who included Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. Military helicopters and a US spy plane flew overhead during the jungle trip.

"He was happy that despite the difficulty of getting to that camp, we did it," Esperon told The Associated Press by telephone.

"It just goes to show that we have progressed so much," he said.

Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani was killed in a clash with government troops in Patikul last September. His presumed successor, Abu Sulaiman, was also slain by troops near Patikul. The deaths were strongly praised by the US government.

Janjalani and Sulaiman had been blamed for plotting deadly terror attacks and ransom kidnappings in the Philippines. Their victims included American nationals.

Before the jungle trip, Keating was shown pictures of the bodies of Janjalani and Sulaiman, along with a wanted poster with pictures of top Abu Sayyaf commanders who remain at large.

He was also shown pictures of two top Indonesian terror suspects—Dulmatin, who goes by one name, and Umar Patek—who fled to Mindanao in 2003 after being implicated in the Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people in Indonesia in 2002.

Keating's trip "gives us higher spirits because it recognizes the efforts of our soldiers and our country in the fight against terrorism," said Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, a regional military commander who joined the trip.

Wiping off sweat, Keating toured the former Abu Sayyaf encampment—now a base of the Philippine Marines—posing questions from time to time to local troops.

"Are these foxholes?" he asked one Marine, who snappily replied, "Yes, sir."

Patikul's jungle mountains were once one of the Abu Sayyaf's most formidable strongholds until a US-backed massive military offensive that started in August 2006 drove most of the extremists away and allowed Filipino troops to capture their bases. Some of the militants are believed to be still roaming the area.

Six suspected Abu Sayyaf militants fatally shot a police officer in Jolo's Kalingalan Caluang town on Monday, police said.

Between 300 to 400 Abu Sayyaf remain at large in the South, mostly on Jolo, along with less than a dozen Indonesian militants, according to the military. *AP*

9 tribesmen killed in clash with cops over demolition

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—FOXHOLES WERE DUG. Women and children were evacuated. Tribesmen, vowing to defend what they claimed was their ancestral land, made their stand yesterday in what turned out to be a 10-hour gunfight with lawmen and a demolition crew in a community in Rizal, Kalinga.

When the smoke cleared, at least nine people lay dead and 10 policemen wounded in Sitio Malapiat, Barangay San Pascual. About 50 shanties had been razed to the ground.

The clash erupted between 50 lawmen assisting a demolition crew of the local government and those they said were illegal settlers.

The disputed land, formerly owned by the family of Vicente Madrigal but which was declared public land by the Supreme Court in 2003, is also being claimed by farmers under the government's land reform program.

Refused to surrender

Supt. Severino Cruz, Kalinga police director, said Rizal officials asked the police to help a team tasked to demolish at least 30 shanties in Sitio Malapiat because they were expecting resistance from the residents. The policemen were reinforced by a group of soldiers.

Cruz said the government team, accompanied by the policemen and soldiers, was met by gunfire at about 7:30 a.m. Monday. Fighting continued until 5 p.m. as the armed residents refused to surrender.

But Rustico Gagate, lawyer of the residents living in the disputed estate, said the policemen started the firefight and burned houses in the area.

Gagate identified the fatalities as Delfin Pedro, Oliba Pedro, Felimon Pedro, Juan Baccoy, Conrado Ordonia, Juan Attang, Sagwil Agyao, Abak Tayaan and one Bangi. He said at least 50 residents were wounded in the violence.

Rizal Mayor Marcelo de la Cruz defended the police team. According to information he received, he said the policemen were forced to burn at least 20 shanties at noon after they were overwhelmed by about 50 residents who put up a fight.

Forced to burn 20 shanties

"It was only (after burning the houses) that the police discovered that there were foxholes [in the area]. We also found out that the women and children were sent to upper Kalinga [before the clash] and the men were told to stay and fight," De la Cruz said.

Gagate said one woman, whom he identified as Tayaan, was killed in the clash.

Reports from the Cordillera police identified the wounded policemen as Senior Insp. Bobby Glen Ganipac, Insp. Nelson Nelmida, Insp. Leo Guay, SPO1 Reynaldo Villanueva, SPO1 Romeo Duguiawe, SPO1 Franklin Narag, PO3 Claro Aquino, PO2 Noel Tumbali, PO1 Gary Basiag and PO1 Ramon Mamanteo.

They were taken to the Juan Duyan District Hospital in Rizal. Reports said Guay and Nelmida were transferred to the Cagayan Valley Regional Hospital in Tuguegarao City where they underwent surgery, while the others were taken to the Kalinga Provincial Hospital in the capital Tabuk. *With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez and Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Bomb rap filed vs Batangas vice gov bet

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION yesterday filed charges in the Department of Justice against Batangas vice gubernatorial candidate Jose Antonio "Mark" Leviste and his bodyguard for allegedly planting a dummy bomb at the provincial capitol to draw attention away from a real bomb that was to be planted outside the office of a provincial board member.

But the NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division recommended that Leviste's bodyguard, Edward Ronquillo, be excluded from the charges so he could be used as a state witness.

In the complaint, the NBI quoted Ronquillo's narration of events and noted that he appeared to have passed a polygraph test.

Leviste, for his part, denied Ronquillo's statements, calling them "preposterous" and "hilariously unbelievable," according to the NBI.

Ronquillo claimed two soldiers gave Leviste a box supposedly containing C4 explosives during a meeting at Fort Bonifacio on June 8, the day the fake bomb was found.

Ronquillo said Leviste told him to place a dummy bomb consisting of a bottle filled with soil in front of the capitol as a decoy so he could place the C4 bomb beside the door to Board Member Leanda Bolilia's office.

Ronquillo said he was told to tell Bolilia to get out the building because a bomb had been found, and then to place the real explosive outside her office.

But with the arrival of police following the discovery of the fake bomb, Ronquillo said he could not plant the real bomb.

Leviste beat Edwin Ermita, son of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in the vice gubernatorial race but he still has not been proclaimed pending resolution of a failure of elections petition filed by Ermita.
Leila B. Salaverria

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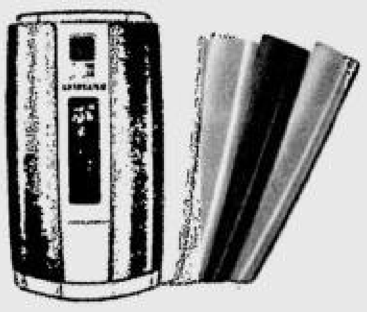

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'Double blind' review journal, 1st in Southeast Asia, launched

THE CENTER FOR Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) will launch tomorrow the only "refereed" journal in Southeast Asia devoted to journalism—The Philippine Journalism Review.

A refereed journal is an academic publication the articles of which pass through a "double blind" review. This means that experts review the articles for publication without knowing who wrote them, while the authors do not know who reviewed their papers.

The Philippine Journalism Review (PJR), which previously appeared in magazine form, will be relaunched as a refereed journal during the Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ) rites to be held June 28 at the SGV Hall of the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati City.

PJR ceased publication as a bimonthly in 2004, but a monthly monitor, PJR Reports, was launched in the same year. In her foreword, CMFR Executive Director and PJR publisher Melinda Quintos de Jesus recalled that CMFR had always intended to republish PJR as a refereed journal together with PJR Reports (PJRR). PJR will initially be published annually, while PJRR will continue as a monthly.

The new journal, supported by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, will have the complete text of the class action suit filed by several journalists and media organizations against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, as a study aid for journalism students.

PJR will be edited by UP journalism professor and CMFR deputy director Luis V. Teodoro, who was the magazine PJR's editor for four years. Its managing editor is Danilo A. Arao, also of UP.

Among the contributing writers to the PJR journal are Luz Rimban, who wrote for Web radio, and Yvonne Chua, who reviewed The CMFR Ethics Manual: A Values Approach to News Media Ethics, and another CMFR publication, Limited Protection: Press Freedom and Philippine Law. Chua and Rimban were with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and are two of only three JVOAEJ Hall of Famers.

UP's Georgina Encanto, Danilo A. Arao and Lourdes E. Simbulan (Chit Estella); freelance journalist Ma. Cristina Rodriguez, St. Scholastica College's Ma. Aurora Lomibao and UP graduate student Hazel Guimatico complete the roster of contributors.

The members of the PJR board of advisers are Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot; Elizabeth Enriquez, Encanto, Chua and Jose F. Lacaba of UP; Rosario F. Hofileña and Violet Valdez of Ateneo de Manila University; Ramon R. Tuazon of AIJC; Joyce Arriola of the University of Santo Tomas and Lomibao.

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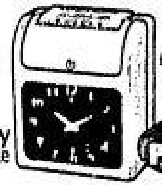

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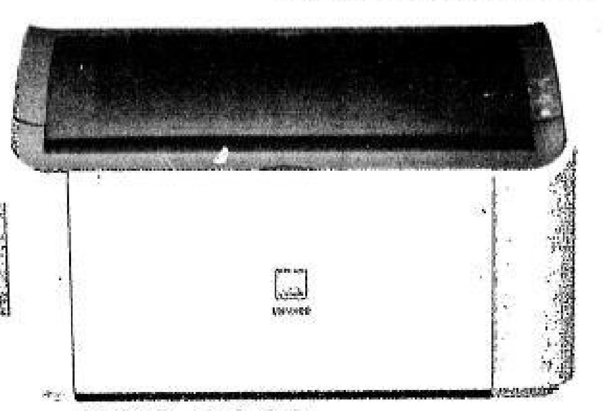

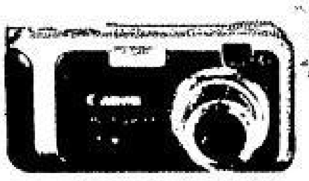

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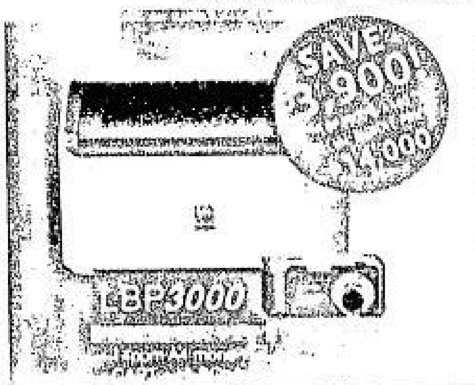

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Coming forward

EDITORIAL

THREE GENERALS CLAIM THEY ATTENDED A command conference during which the need to execute leftists was openly discussed. These generals allege that they were told that their chances for promotion depend on the number of leftists they kill. But the specific identities of the generals remain a mystery to the public. They will only come forward, they say, if and when an investigation is launched in the Senate under the auspices of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

These charges are, to put it mildly, dynamite. They will remain mere rumor as long as those making the revelations remain anonymous and refuse to reveal themselves. Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has a point when he reminds the public that no one can be sure if these "generals" are even generals, though typically he seems more interested in issuing warnings to the effect that if they really are active-duty generals, they're in big trouble for breaking the chain of command. The AFP, on the other hand, will find itself toothless if the generals turn out to be genuine officers, but retired.

To be sure, if we assume the officers exist and aren't just engaged in psychological warfare but are instead telling the truth, it's understandable why they'd prefer to remain anonymous for now. Were they to step forward now, the AFP could throw the book at them and they'd never have a chance to testify before the Senate. We believe, however, that the Senate and the public deserve to know if these are bona fide military officers, and thus, if their allegations should even be entertained, or not.

The Senate convenes in a matter of weeks; and as a confrontation between the AFP top brass and the Senate already seems to be a foregone conclusion, both the Senate and its potential witnesses should face the coming challenges sooner rather than later. The country is tired of endless charges and counter-charges, of so much heat but so little light.

The country is tired of hearing Malacañang expressing concern over political killings, while the top brass do everything within their power—and beyond—to blunt the effects of investigations, much less even appear at any hearings. The country is tired of seeing senators who are obsessed with browbeating witnesses, but who don't do their homework or lack the ability to even hold hearings properly, efficiently, or in a gentlemanly manner. And the country is tired of justice being confused with the selective filing of charges and the agonizingly slow conduct of trials.

And yet the country craves answers, too. It deeply desires action, it desires equity and clarity. Let the culprits, whether in the armed services or in rebel groups, who engage in political murders, be exposed, prosecuted and punished. Let the chips fall where they may, so that the nation will know who is to blame and who is free of blame.

As of now, the only branch of government really doing its part to uphold the rule of law and our liberties as citizens, is the judiciary, specifically, the Supreme Court. The Executive Branch and Congress routinely make noises about stopping the political killings, but only the Supreme Court has declared that our society faces an emergency situation, and that something concrete must be done.

Lawyer Theodore Te, in a commentary in Newsbreak, pointed out that concrete action lies in the Supreme Court invoking its power on judicial rule-making, which "is little known to the general public but granted to the Court by the Constitution." Article VIII, Section 5(5) vests the Supreme Court with the sole authority to "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of human rights," he noted. It is a power that has seldom been invoked.

As Te explained it: "The power to promulgate remedies to protect and enforce human rights is a significant power for the Court to exercise. By invoking this, the Court effectively recognizes that no effective or meaningful remedy exists at the moment to protect certain fundamental rights. Where a right exists, there must be a remedy. Clearly, the right to be protected from extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances exists, but there is no meaningful remedy to enforce these rights."

The Supreme Court has indicated that it intends to find ways to grant Congress greater latitude in investigating the political killings, and compelling witnesses to testify. The question now is, whether witnesses will come forward. The three generals can—and should—lead by example.

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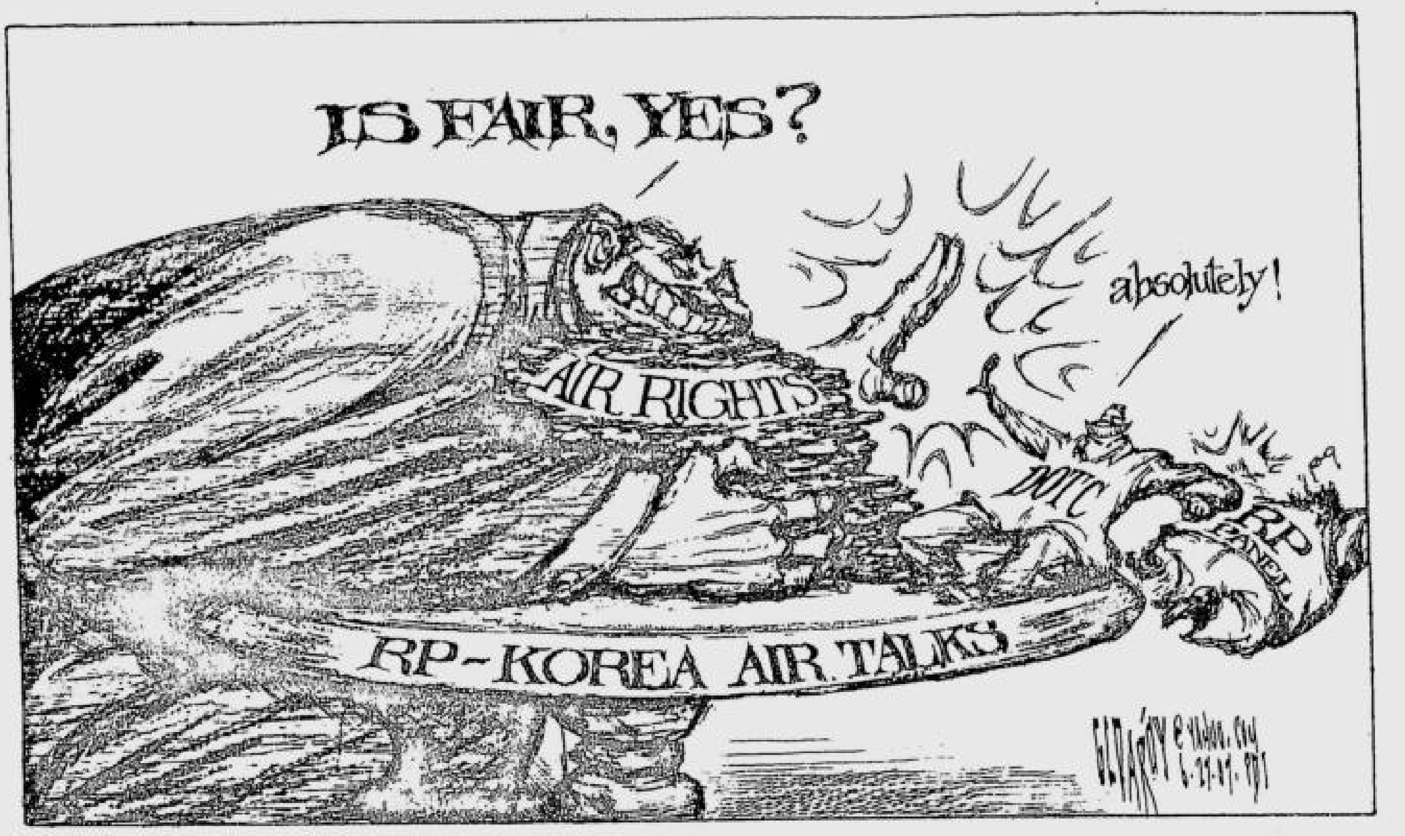


How Teves got Buñag fired from the BIR

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SO YOU WANT TO BE INTERNAL REVENUE commissioner? I know there are many aspiring for the position. But look what happened to Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

Buñag was able to increase BIR collections every year that he was its chief. On his first year alone, 2006, he achieved a 20-percent growth in collections, a more than P100 billion increase, an achievement never before reached by any of his predecessors, except Liwayway Vinzons-Chato in 1997, her sixth year as BIR chief. Buñag's 2007 first quarter collection of P143 billion was 6.04 percent higher than the year-ago level of P134.96 billion. Yet he was fired. His collection was P10 billion short of the target of P153 billion, according to his boss, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Buñag explained what happened last Monday at the Kapihan sa Manila. The yearly collection target of the BIR (and also the Bureau of Customs) is set by the Department of Finance. The BIR has little say in it. The DOF just sets a goal and the BIR has to achieve it—or else. The BIR cannot even make *tawad*.

But the root of it all is the insatiable hunger of the national government for more and more money to satisfy the greed of the bureaucracy, especially for the ever-increasing pork barrel of the congressmen and senators—with only a few exceptions. The principal function of the DOF is to raise money for the government, so the finance secretary is forced to think of ways to increase revenue collections. The easiest way is to increase taxes (such as the sin taxes) or impose new ones (such as the E-VAT).

But sometimes you cannot squeeze any more taxes from the taxpayers, so the DOF squeezes its main tax collection agencies, the BIR and the BOC. The finance secretary and his assistants take out their calculators and set the collection targets. These targets are based on assumptions, always very optimistic, that in most cases don't happen. These assumptions are based on several variables like the growth of the Gross Domestic Product, inflation and interest rates. Historically, realized indicators have been generally lower than the assumptions, except for a few cases. Economic forecasting is never accurate whether in the Philippines or in the economically advanced countries.

In the first quarter of 2007, for example, the DOF assumed a GDP growth rate of 10.2 percent, an inflation rate of 3.3 percent, and interest rate (weighted 91-day Treasury bill) of 5.1 percent.

The actual results were much lower: GDP growth rate of 9.6 percent, inflation rate of 2.9 percent and T-bill interest rate of 3.64 percent.

Lower than projected GDP growth means less business activities for the BIR to collect taxes from. The same is true with inflation rate and interest rate. While lower than projected inflation and interest rates are good for business and the economy, they can ruin the tax collection targets of the BIR.

The E-VAT, for example, is based on the prices of goods and services. A lower than projected inflation rate, therefore, means that the BIR cannot collect E-VAT on the higher (or inflationary) prices assumed in the DOF-set target. At the same time, lower than projected T-bill interest rates means the BIR collects less tax on the interest income of banks and other financial institutions that invest in T-bills.

The DOF never adjusts the BIR collection targets, even if the economic forecast used in setting the BIR collection targets is way off the mark—which was what happened in the present case.

Media reports never pointed out that the DOF assumptions on the economy, which are used in setting the BIR collection targets, were off the mark. This has a big bearing on the actual collection of the BIR.

No other revenue agency in the world adopts such a "target-setting" performance criteria, for the simple reason that it can never be accurate because of too many variables in the economy.

But in the Philippines, the DOF-set target that is culled from inaccurate economic forecast is used as a gauge of the "integrity" of BIR personnel. If the BIR is not able to achieve that collection target, then it is assumed that its personnel must be corrupt and not collecting the correct taxes.

Also, the DOF economic forecast, no matter how incorrect, determines whether or not the BIR personnel will get the "incentive bonus" which the law mandates when the BIR exceeds its yearly target.

Teves never corrected the BIR target even if the DOF economic forecast was wrong. And he used the BIR's supposed collection "shortfall" as the main reason to remove Buñag, his classmate in high school, from the BIR.

Teves calls for a monthly press conference to report the monthly shortfall in tax collection, against non-existent monthly targets. BIR targets are established quarterly and yearly, not monthly. Why did he do that?

Buñag, who was way, way ahead of Teves in ranking in high school, was asked if their relationship in school had anything to do with the shabby treatment he got from the finance secretary. "Maybe you did not allow him to copy from you," somebody suggested to Buñag, "and now that he has his chance, he is getting even with you." Buñag said his classmate never tried to copy from him.

Asked what was offered him as a *consuelo de bobo*, Buñag said he was offered an ambassadorship to several countries, including the Netherlands, but that he rejected all of them.

What is he going to do now? Get a voodoo doll of Teves and a big pin.

Unlike Teves, Buñag has not lost his sense of humor.

Example

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HERMOGENES ESPERON AND HIS BOYS have repeated it like a mantra they've begun to believe it themselves. The AFP, they say, has no policy of "salvaging" its enemies.

That was what Esperon said when the INQUIRER reported that a couple of generals attested to high-level discussions that sanctioned the murder of dissidents. Not true, he said, the military has no such policy. And that is what his boys are now saying after Chief Justice Reynato Puno called for a summit to look into the extrajudicial killings, specifically with a view to determining command responsibility. They welcome the summit, they say, but don't look at them. The military has no policy of "salvaging" dissidents.

Well, at the very least it's idiotic. It is a tautology. It's like saying the Catholic Church has no policy of tolerating mistresses and sexual harassment among clergy. What military establishment on earth has a policy of torturing prisoners or burying enemies alive? Even Saddam Hussein didn't have a policy of gassing minorities.

What makes it odious in fact is that the AFP does not have a policy of murdering enemies—indeed its policy calls for the opposite—but it does it anyway. The AFP also does not have a policy of ordering soldiers to cheat in elections. Yet Esperon did it, at least according to Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan. Malacañang itself has no policy of lying, cheating and stealing. Yet its current tenant vowed not to run in 2004, asked Garci to make her win by a million votes, and made this country the most corrupt in Asia.

You go by this trend, and you can almost postulate as a scientific law that if government has no policy for something, you can be damn sure it's doing it.

Even more idiotic is Malacañang's acquiescence to, or endorsement of, the Supreme Court's call for a summit to end the killings. That is not something it should be endorsing, that is something it should be doing. And doing like yesterday. The massacre of journalists and political activists has already reached terrifying proportions, even if this country has gotten so numb from enduring one iniquity after another that getting terrified has gone out of its range of sensations. Outside looking in, well, a foreigner did wonder in a letter to the editor why we call ourselves a democracy. He did not quote Hobbes, but he might as well have: The current life of the Filipino is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

It is not government's choice to stand squarely behind the efforts of others to stop the killings, it is its duty to stop the killings itself. A government that cannot do that is useless and has no right to exist, or culpable and therefore deserves to be overthrown. The way Malacañang talks about the killings, you'd think they were a storm or earthquake that is beyond its control. The killings are not a natural disaster, they are merely the natural consequence of an unnatural disaster that sits solitarily, poorly, nastily, brutishly and hopefully shortly at the throne.

If Malacañang were sincere about wanting to help, never mind determined to stop the killings, it can even now do one very simple thing. It can say earnestly, or at least unequivocally, that it would send the Marines to guard and protect the generals who would come out and bear witness to Norberto Gonzales' plot, in connivance with Esperon and company, to rid this world of human beings they deem obstacles to their path. It can say that it will offer incentives to any military officer, not least the monumental one of allowing them to keep their lives and/or freedom, who can shed light on the greatest bane this country has known since the torture and bloodletting of martial law.

Yet what did Esperon say when the INQUIRER reported that two generals were present at the discussions sanctioning the murder of dissidents? He was contemplating invoking EO 464 if summoned to testify by the Senate. He did not even remember that EO 464 had been deemed illegal and banished from human contemplation by the Supreme Court. The miracle in fact was not that the Supreme Court scrapped it, the miracle was that GMA had the gall to decree it. Why shouldn't Esperon want to forbid any general from appearing in public without his express consent to say he ordered the murder of crows and Bayan Muna? After all, his boss forbade any public official from appearing in public without her express consent to say she cheated in the elections.

That is obstruction of justice at the minimum. Though the prosecution of it will have to wait until this regime has fallen. Can you imagine Raul Gonzalez prosecuting it? He is by, of, and in himself an obstruction of justice. No, he is by, of, and in himself an obstruction of the true, the good, and above all the beautiful.

I heartily applaud the Chief Justice for his initiative. It is good to know that there is at least one Puno in this country capable of bearing sweet fruit. While at this, I applaud Antonio Trillanes for vowing to stop the mayhem—or at least to expose its authors and bring retribution upon their heads—his first order of business as a newly elected senator. He has almost single-handedly done wonders for restoring the luster in the term "an officer and a gentleman," even if Esperon himself, unlike the rest of the AFP, wants to consider him an outsider. Of course, nothing will replace thunderous public outrage as the most effective way to end the violence. But I'll take my blessings where I can find them. The one magnificent thing about these initiatives is that they set an example for the citizens to follow, an example of courage, decency and doing right by the country.

Who knows? That might prove more contagious than the example of lying, cheating and stealing.

Who is Gordon Brown?

WORLD VIEW

Ian Davidson

AT LONG LAST, GORDON BROWN IS TAKING over from Tony Blair as Britain's prime minister, thus attaining his life-long ambition, as if by right. That is his first problem. He has not been elected by anyone—not by the Labour Party, and not by Britain's voters—he has merely come into an inheritance that he has long thought was his due.

How, then, will Brown acquire legitimacy as Britain's new leader? The one thing that is clear is that he will not gain legitimacy if he offers only more of what Blair has been dishing up for the past 10 years.

Brown's second problem is the mirror image of the first. As a senior member of Blair's government throughout its tenure, he shares responsibility for everything that Blair has done. Political commentators sometimes claim to detect important differences in their underlying political attitudes. However, in practice, Brown has remained in the shadows, skillfully managing the economy, but remaining silent and enigmatic on vital political issues, and apparently endorsing everything Blair did.

If Brown is to gain legitimacy, he must offer something new; but he can do that only by distinguishing himself from the Blair legacy in clearly perceptible—and therefore fairly radical—ways. This will be a difficult trick to pull off.

Perhaps the single most important domestic question Brown faces concerns where he stands on the balance between the free market and the claims of social policy. Blair's government moved the Labour Party a long way to the right of its traditional priorities of protecting the underprivileged, and to justify the change he re-named the party "New Labour."

In many ways, the Blair government's support of free-market policies turned out to be a shrewd and productive shift. Britain's economy grew more steadily and rapidly than it had done for several generations, and the tax revenue generated by growth enabled the government to pour money into education and the National Health Service. But this has come at a price, or rather several prices.

First, inequality has grown at both ends of the income scale. At the bottom, the proportion of the population with an income below the poverty line increased from 13 percent at the start of Blair's government to 20 percent now. That situation is much worse among ethnic minorities. And, despite the government's efforts, childhood poverty also has increased under Blair.

At the top, the incomes of the mega-rich have soared, with predictable repercussions, especially in the property market. Public concern about this issue has been made much worse by claims that the rich get even richer by paying little tax.

There was a time when Brown was thought to be a believer in traditional Labour Party values. Was it true? Is it true now? What will he say about inequality?

Unfortunately, Blair and his government are perceived to be tainted by some of the less attractive features of free-market capitalism. Blair himself seems to prefer to have "friends" who are very rich and who will lend him their holiday villas in Tuscany. This "closeness" has led the police to investigate claims that some Labour Party donors have been rewarded with political honors. In short, Blair's government exudes an aura of sleaze and cronyism. Can Brown show that he is different?

The worst part of Blair's legacy, of course, is the war in Iraq. Many people predicted, and everyone can now see, that the decision to invade was a disastrous error; that it is having catastrophic consequences, not just for Iraq, but also for the Middle East generally; and that it has seriously damaged the moral standing of the United States and Britain. The most critical issue facing Brown is whether he chooses to distance himself from Blair's self-satisfied and delusional claim that the invasion of Iraq was "the right thing to do."

Britain has already reduced its forces in southern Iraq, and is on course to reduce them still further as they hand over "security" to the Iraqi police and military. In reality, of course, the civil and guerrilla war under way in the rest of Iraq means that any security in the south can only be a temporary illusion. The choice facing Brown is whether to cling silently to the existing policy, in the futile hope that the problem will go away, or explicitly recognize Britain's share in the disaster.

This is partly a question of what to do now in Iraq; but it is also a question of Britain's relationship with the United States. With hindsight, it is clear that Britain's participation in the Iraq war was driven solely by Blair's determination to stick limpet-like to the United States. Brown believes, and has said, that Britain must always be close friends with America; and obviously that is the right thing to believe and say. But is he prepared to make clear that there is a difference between being close friends and going into an illegal and disastrous war just to please George W. Bush?

So far, there is no indication that he will. While he has publicly regretted the errors in British intelligence about Saddam Hussein, that is merely a way of shifting the blame from the government to the intelligence services. But it was not the intelligence services that decided to go to war; it was Tony Blair—with the support of Gordon Brown.

Project Syndicate

Ian Davidson is an adviser to, and a columnist for, the European Policy Centre in Brussels. A former columnist for the Financial Times, his most recent book is "Voltaire in Exile."

Women and climate change

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PORT DOUGLAS—AN HOUR'S DRIVE AWAY from Cairns in Tropical North Queensland, this town is famous for two World Heritage sites: the Great Barrier Reef and the Tropical Rainforests. Tourism is its biggest industry, with world-class resorts and hotels found along the highway, while the small town center plays host to a number of restaurants, bars and cafés along with souvenir shops and boutiques. It's a prime example of a mutually rewarding, profitable relationship between the environment and business, of profiting from the promotion and exploitation of spectacular natural resources, giving impetus to efforts to protect and preserve these magnificent sites.

Port Douglas is the site of this year's meeting of the Apec Women Leaders' Network, founded in Manila in 1996 to give women in the Apec "member-economies" a mechanism to influence the deliberations and agreements reached in what some have described as the "gender-challenged" annual summit. The town is an ideal site for this gathering which has for its theme "Women Contributing to Strong and Sustainable Futures," with special attention to meeting the challenges of climate change. This hews closely to the theme of the Apec meet, to be hosted by Australia later this year, which is "Strengthening our Community, Building a Sustainable Future."

Opening Monday, the WLN meeting started off on a strong, optimistic note. Governor General Maj. Gen. Michael Jeffery, the guest of honor, described the Apec region as "the most economically vibrant in the world," with an average 4.6 percent growth in GDP among its members. But at the same time, said Heather Ridout, chair of WLN 2007, the Apec economies are also the "biggest emitters" of so-called greenhouse gases that are responsible for climate change. "The roles, rights and responsibilities of women will be fundamental to the solutions (we seek) to dealing with these problems," she added, noting how one study on the region put the cost of discrimination against women in business and employment at a staggering US$47 billion. In Australia, said Ridout, who is also chief executive of the Australian Industry Group, "one-third of small- and medium-scale enterprises is owned by women."

* * *

THESE were certainly sweet words for the 400 or so women attending the WLN meet, as well as the "Women in Export" gathering held the day before. The WLN gathers women leaders in business, politics, academe and civil society who have been meeting during or around the time of the annual Apec gathering to share experiences, discuss issues and ultimately draft a declaration containing the women's concerns to be submitted to the leaders of the Asia-Pacific economies.

And yet, despite 12 years of meetings and negotiations, it turns out that the WLN has had little impact on the deliberations and preparations of Apec itself. "WLN needs to be at the Apec table," a seasoned Apec negotiator advised the delegation heads and focal points at the WLN meet.

An example is the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac), which meets simultaneously with the Apec leaders and whose views and recommendations are funneled into the final declarations. Of the 63 Abac members, only five are women, and their ties to the WLN are tenuous at best.

Responding to a WLN official who complained that the Abac "has to be more diverse," the advisor said that "if women want to be in Abac, then you need to understand how the process works, get on the radar screen of people who choose the members." Since the members of Abac are appointed by governments, this means getting the nod of political powers.

Describing the relations that WLN has with Apec as "passive advocacy," the advisor urged the women to work harder and more visibly to "influence policy and attitudes" and not simply count on the leaders or their underlings to read the annual declaration.

* * *

QUITE apart from raising the profile of women leaders in the region and bringing them to "the table" of the Apec negotiations, the environment, particularly the impact of climate change, was very much on the women's minds.

There was no disputing the realities and adverse impacts of global warming. Governor General Jeffery made mention of how, during a conference on climate change in Canberra, the capital was hit by an unexpected, unseasonal ice and snow storm. Judy Stewart of the Great Barrier Reef Resource Foundation declared that "the link between warming sea water and the bleaching of reef-building corals is incontrovertible."

Ziggy Switkowski, who heads Australia's nuclear energy authority and took part in the preparation of the "Stern Report" that called the attention of Australians to climate change, said of the phenomenon that "the science is sound and the forecasts are reliable." And yet, while governments around the world agree that "there is need for a sharp reduction in emissions," no country has come up so far with "a coherent plan to get there."

He also made clear that "nothing we can do now can impact on the next 30 years," so while the steps we take as societies and individually might have little impact on our own future, they will affect the quality of life of our grandchildren and their children.

A do-nothing policy, agreed the speakers at the panel discussion on climate change, would be even costlier and have worse consequences.

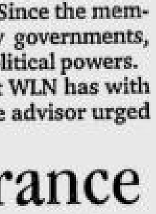
"The issue is not just about climate," said Sam Moslyn, an executive of the Insurance Australia Group. "The issue is about how climate change is increasing our vulnerability to natural disasters, disease, food shortages, our human security."

What we can do—as women, as individuals, as leaders—will be foremost on the WLN agenda for the next few days.

Traces of France

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



HISTORICALLY, YESTERDAY WAS THE 60TH anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France. But our relations go a long way back to a time when the Republic of the Philippines was not even conceived. June 26, 1947 is but a date, a footnote in a story that could start with the signing of documents that established our formal diplomatic relations 60 years ago, or it could be a very long story that begins with the Frenchmen who were part of the Magellan expedition that came to our shores in 1521. A historian can cast a net, narrow or wide, depending on the available documentation and his or her viewpoint.

France, or more importantly, the French Revolution was an inspiration to many of our heroes involved in the Philippine Revolution that broke out in 1896. One can only wonder how history would've been different if France exported her ideas of revolution more explicitly to the Philippines as it did in the American Revolution.

Over two decades ago, as I was going through old bookstores and bookstalls in Paris, as well as the fabulous weekend flea market at the end of a subway line called the Porte de Clignancourt, I found so much 19th-century Filipiniana, mostly travel accounts that were sometimes illustrated with engravings and photographs, giving us a visual link to the past. What made these out-of-print books, pamphlets and other ephemera interesting to me was that there were a number of eyewitness accounts of the Philippine-American War. While we are not wanting in terms of Filipino or American sources for the period, it is always essential to see the same story from another window.

The French accounts that I read revealed that while Americans were obviously not fond of Spaniards and did not agree with the way Spain administered the archipelago, during the Filipino-American War the United States was not guiding us on the road to independence but actually taking over from Spain. I was surprised that the French sources were sympathetic to Emilio Aguinaldo and the Filipino struggle for freedom.

We do not have to look far for traces of France in our history. Our national anthem has a part that echoes the French national anthem. The red, white and blue that, according to our June 12, 1898 Declaration of Independence, commemorates the colors of the US flag can be traced all the way back to the French tri-color. As a matter of fact, in the great Malolos banquet of September 1898, which saw the ratification of our Declaration of Independence in Kawit, the elaborate printed menu was in French, not Filipino. On it was marked the battle cry of the French Revolution: Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!

Going back to the intellectual roots of the Philippine Revolution, we see France once again, for if we are to believe the inventory of books confiscated by the Spaniards in the bodega where Andres Bonifacio worked, the Supremo of the Katipunan read and was probably inspired by books like "Lives of the Presidents of the United States" and, of course, "The French Revolution." One piece of obscure information I dug up on the Supremo is that he had a brother who escaped death during the Revolution because he was a seaman. Long before OFWs became a major industry, Andres Bonifacio's brother worked overseas and was said to have settled in France.

Textbook history notes that there was a group of expatriate Filipinos who either lived or visited France. The roster is impressive: Jose Rizal, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, Juan and Antonio Luna, Felix and Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Valentin Ventura, Marcelo H. del Pilar and many more. What did they think of France and the French?

Luna and Hidalgo settled in Paris and made a living there as painters. Trinidad and Felix Pardo de Tavera studied in the Sorbonne. Antonio Luna, before he became the greatest general of the Filipino-American War, was a pharmacist who took postgraduate courses at Institut Pasteur, and upon his return to Manila, he undertook landmark research on the cleanliness of Pasig River water and the purity of carabao milk. Marcelo H. del Pilar had a Filipino meal taken in the Paris home of Juliana Gorricho where they partook of *lechon* and *sinigang*, and ate *kamayan* long before the famous restaurant of the same name opened. Gorricho's recipe book is preserved in the Rizal Library of Ateneo de Manila University.

It is significant that none of the Pinoys who visited the Universal Exposition of 1889 mentioned the newly built Eiffel Tower in their writings. This now iconographic symbol for Paris and France does not appear except as a stray reference in the journals of the men who were involved in what our textbooks now call the "Propaganda Movement." Why is the Eiffel Tower absent? Maybe Rizal was too busy organizing a conference on Philippine studies in time for the Expo to notice, or perhaps he disliked the tower like Flaubert, who dined regularly in the Eiffel Tower restaurant not so much because he liked the food, but rather because it was the only spot in Paris where he did not see the tower.

It is not well known that the Eiffel company exported bridges to the Philippines, and that the all-steel San Sebastian Church in Manila was prefabricated in Europe, shipped to the Manila piece by piece and built on-site like a Lego set.

If we look hard enough we will find other traces of France in our history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Formula wars

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S ALMOST FORMULAIC, THE WAY THE DRUG COMPANIES argue their case for advertising and promotions, whether for medicines or for breast-milk substitutes (milk formula). I'm saying formulaic because they use the same scripts over and over again, whenever there are attempts by governments to regulate their advertising and marketing strategies: "People need access to information, and we're providing it through our advertising and marketing campaigns."

The current battle over milk formula started last year when the Department of Health issued new and stricter regulations on the promotion of milk formulas. There were already existing rules and regulations under a Milk Code, but the provisions were frequently being violated, with the Bureau of Food and Drugs handling 63 reported violations of the code between July 2001 and December 2004. After the government issued the new regulations, the drug industry took it to court on grounds that this violated their right to free trade. As the case dragged on in the Supreme Court, the industry shifted its focus, arguing now that the new rules will prevent the companies from providing information about child nutrition and impeding free choice among mothers.

Let consumers decide, industry will argue. They should add, caveat emptor (let the buyer beware). The playing field here is just too skewed. Advertising is powerful because it uses mass media, taking on a semblance of expert authority and finding its way into our subconscious because of its frequency. Think of some of the drug ads you've seen, and their claims. I can hear "*Ako pa*," a macho guy attributing his virility to a vitamin. And from way back in childhood, I can still hear the catchy tune for Tiki Tiki vitamins. (See? You're humming it now, aren't you?)

A 2006 report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (pcij.org/i-report/2006/breastfeeding.html) cited AC Nielsen figures showing that P2.3 billion was spent for advertising infant formula during the first half of 2006 alone. Note that's half a year, and only for advertising in the media. The health department's entire budget for one year is only P13 billion, so there's hardly anything for education on infant and child nutrition.

During the last few days, local media have been featuring a clinical professor from the Ohio State University, who argues in behalf of the companies that many mothers will find themselves in situations where they choose not to breastfeed, or cannot breast-feed, and that they will need access to information, provided by the companies, to make the right choices.

Informed choices

I can accept that many mothers will indeed find that they cannot breast-feed, not so much for physiological reasons than because of having to return to office work. But the question for the drug companies is simple: Is their information really going to help mothers make informed choices? If, for example, a mother has to return to work, are the drug companies actually providing information about the options for the mother besides infant formula—for example, using a breast pump to get the milk and storing this in the refrigerator?

The industry's "information" is just too skewed toward promoting milk formula, from infant booklets given in hospitals to new mothers, with advertisements for milk formulas and weaning foods, to the packaging itself. My own son is on formula simply because I'm solo parenting (yes, I know there are claims that men can induce themselves to lactate but...). But even as I use formula, I do resent the way the manufacturers still attempt to drum up their ludicrous IQ messages in the packaging. I have a can of Gain in front of me and it has "IQ" written all over the can. Psychologists can tell you this is insidious, almost a way of saying: if you shift, you might be taking away all this IQ-enhancing milk from your child.

I'd trust industry more if it would stop playing with the facts. On television the other night, I heard claims that breast-feeding continues to be widespread anyway in the Philippines, so why regulate the formulas. I heard a figure as high as 85 percent cited, but that refers to mothers who initiate breast-feeding, and that could be even for one day alone.

What are the figures that matter? First, only 16 percent of mothers will use exclusive breast-feeding for six months, which is the recommendation of the World Health Organization—a small minority. Second, the last National Demographic and Health Survey found that the median period of breastfeeding nationwide was only 0.8 months. Yes, the decimal point comes before the 8, meaning it's less than a month.

Industry spokesmen have also challenged, sometimes with indignation, Unicef's figures about milk formulas being related to some 16,000 infant deaths in the Philippines. They want proof, but again that's all so formulaic, making them sound too much like the tobacco companies who continue to insist that there is no direct proof showing that smoking kills. It reflects a lack of understanding of scientific medical research, which can only show correlations, rather than direct causation. With such poor scientific sense, industry's claims to being able to provide sound medical information become highly suspect.

Wish list

If the formula manufacturers are serious about their claims to providing information, then let them expand on the initiative of Nestlé's Wellness Campaign, which has included a categorical statement that there is no scientific evidence to support IQ improvement from one of the infant formulas. Nestlé was the main target of consumer groups many years ago because of its aggressive marketing of milk formula and it seems to be learning that public relations can pay off.

Just a wish list for the companies to prove that they're interested in medical information for better maternal and child health:

How about launching, in their own offices and factories, facilities for mothers to breast-feed and to store breast milk? How about spearheading a campaign with other corporations on the value of breast milk? (Using the language of profits, we could argue that breast-fed children are healthier, which means less absenteeism from mothers who would otherwise have to stay home to care for a sick child.) How about more programs on TV, with media-wise doctors and nutritionists, explaining good child nutrition in general, to include, I'm willing to concede, a role for milk formulas? (Sure, maybe even tackle the question about breast-feeding men.) Finally, how about sponsoring medical experts to talk about how long a child should be on milk formula? (Some of my pediatrician friends say I can shift to regular milk after the child turns 2. Others say 1. Still others, including the late Benjamin Spock, suggest a total shift away from cow's milk and the use of soya instead.)

There are enough opportunities out there, to be funded from the industry's P21-billion annual revenues, for the companies to prove they're genuinely interested in promoting infant and child nutrition.

Repeal of antiterror law urged

WE, OF THE PROMOTION OF Church People's Response (PCPR), are calling on the 14th Congress to review and repeal the antiterror law that will surely embolden the abductors and torturers of Pastor Berlin Guerrero, Jonas Burgos and others to go after their next targets. Pastor Berlin was abducted, tortured and is now facing a trumped-up murder charge, while Jonas and many others remain missing.

We call on the newly proclaimed senators to champion the human rights cause by immediately working for the repeal of the antiterror law that will surely multiply the number of unjustified arrests, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the name of the Arroyo administration's "war on terror."

We welcome Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno's vow to help put a stop to the extrajudicial killings. We hope that the Court, under his leadership, will rule favorably on the petition filed by people's organizations to declare the antiterror law unconstitutional. We call on the Senate and Supreme Court to keep high the shining torches of justice in the face of the increasing number of all forms of human rights violations under the Arroyo administration.

In the case of Pastor Berlin, no warrant of arrest was presented, he was abducted, then tortured by his "arresting officers."

July 14, the day the antiterror law begins to be fully implemented, spells doom for human rights.

We therefore ask the Senate and Supreme Court to act swiftly before more citizens will be abducted, tortured then charged with manufactured crimes. In the name of "war on terror," constitutional provisions on the freedom of assembly can be disregarded because legitimate protest actions may be defined as acts of terror by the Arroyo administration.

In fact, after the Supreme Court ruled that the rebellion charges versus the Batasan 6 were baseless, Malacañang's most rabid terror agents—National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and (In)Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez—said that the government could file charges again against Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran et al. if they engaged again in "rebellious" plots against the Arroyo administration. The full implementation of the antiterror law threatens to arrest progressive parliamentarians and anyone who will participate in protest actions, such as nationally coordinated rallies, during the State of the Nation Address (Sona).

Moreover, with the implementation of the antiterror law, we fear that the unconstitutional deployment of military troops in urban communities will also be legalized, again in the name of the government's war on terrorism.

—AMIE DURAL,
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR),
879 Edsa, Quezon City

Election cheats warned of UN and US sanctions

FOR A WHILE, THE PHILIPPINE Anticorruption Movement USA Inc. (Pamusa) was happy because we, organizers and members, thought the Commission on Elections had acquitted itself in the May 14 elections. We believed Chair Benjamin Abalos and the Comelec commissioners showed impartiality in the senatorial vote count.

However, we are alarmed by the news that the votes from Maguindanao, which are statistically improbable, might be considered.

Pamusa has issued a mission statement titled "An Agenda for Progress" in connection with our proposal to be a sort of "deputy sheriff" for the Philippines to help the US state, treasury and justice departments implement the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the "US Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy" and the US "No Safe Haven" policy, the basis for the denial of Jocelyn Bolante's entry to the United States and his detention by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

We wish to serve notice, therefore, that should the Comelec accept the incredible results of the senatorial election in Maguindanao and the Supreme Court find that wholesale cheating was committed, we will ask the US government to subject Abalos, the commissioners and all those involved in the cheating in Maguindanao to the penalties prescribed under UNCAC and US laws.

Take note of the cases of former Peru President Alberto Fujimori and Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko. The latter has been convicted by a US court and is now in jail, while Fujimori is under house arrest in Chile awaiting extradition to Peru to face charges for corruption and human rights violation.

After Bolante, we need to make another example of election cheaters. We should not hesitate to prosecute Comelec officials and to trace, freeze and confiscate their unlawfully acquired assets, wherever they may be.

—FRANK WENCESLAO,
president,
Philippine Anticorruption Movement USA Inc.,
fcwenceslao@hotmail.com

LETTERS

GMA reminded of Labor Day vow

ON NOV. 25, 2002, 229 OF US, residents of Canetown Subdivision in Victorias City, Negros Occidental, wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo, asking her to condone the interest of our housing loans with the Social Security System and Pag-Ibig, and to allow us to settle only the principal loans as a form of amnesty. We could no longer pay the amortization of our housing loans after Victorias Milling Co. Inc. (VMC) decided to implement a massive retrenchment program: out of 4,196 employees in 1997, it retained only 1,132 regular employees—reducing its workforce by 73 percent.

Sadly, our letter-appeal to the President fell on deaf ears. And so we had to suffer the thought that we were doomed to be homeless, our houses facing the prospect of foreclosure any moment because of the huge backlog in our loan payments.

Suddenly, we saw a light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak. During the celebration of Labor Day last year, President Arroyo announced a condonation program for real estate loans. It has been more than a year since then but nothing has been heard again of the condonation program she announced. What we hear of more often is the construction of more housing units for squatters.

May we ask Ms Arroyo if we can still hope for condonation of our housing loans as promised by her, or will we become homeless for a reason not of our own making?

—EDUARDO A. DUARTE,
Canetown Subd.,
Victorias City,
Negros Occidental 6119

Account on 'bullying' not true

I AM TOTALLY AGHAST AT THE false claims made by Mon Tulfo in his June 23 column regarding what went on during the meeting called last June 21 by Dondee Alikpala, executive director of the National Water Resource Board.

With me at that meeting were our chief chemist, Tita Mancera; and Manila Water's representatives Jeric Sevilla Jr. and Randy Pagulaya and their firm's chief chemist.

I categorically deny that I, or anyone else, berated Pinky Tobiano or that we bullied her. I also vehemently deny that I called Tulfo names during the meeting. In fact, when we came to the meeting, we were expecting an explanation regarding the story "Metro water dirty, St. Luke's tests show." (INQUIRER, 6/20/07) The test was subsequently disavowed by St. Luke's.

In that meeting, we were repeatedly asked by Alikpala and Tobiano's lawyer, Ernesto Maceda Jr., to retract our statements defending our respective companies from the "Metro water dirty" story and to apologize to Tobiano. We refused because that would have been tantamount to admitting that the news report (which we believe was highly erroneous and misleading) was true.

The meeting was conducted civilly and there was never any "badmouthing," "berating" or "bullying."

—JESUS MATUBIS JR.,
assistant vice president
for corporate affairs,
Maynilad Water Services Inc.,
MWSS Bldg., Balara,
Katipunan Road, Quezon City

Why this recurring problem?

WITH EVERY SCHOOL YEAR opening, the collection of "voluntary contributions" by public schools always becomes an issue. This is so because of the conflicting interpretations of parents and school officials of the constitutional mandate on free elementary and secondary education.

Free education does not necessarily mean a ban on voluntary contributions or on fund-raising campaigns in public schools. But the inability of parents to pay these contributions should not be a reason to bar their children's enrollment.

Addressed to regional directors, division/city superintendents and district supervisors, DECS Order No. 37, s. 2000:

1. Prohibits the collection of contribution during the period of enrollment from pupils/students of public elementary and secondary schools; allows collection of authorized contributions, provided these are voluntary and are not required for admission or clearance purposes in case of pupils/students transferring to other schools.

2. Enumerates the following as authorized collections for school year 2000-2001:

a. Identification Fee—Not more than P15

b. Boy Scouts of the Philippines—Not more than P25

c. Girl Scouts of the Philippines—Not more than P35

d. Philippine National Red Cross—Not more than P5

e. School Publication Fee—Not more than P40

f. School Publication Fee (High School)—Not more than P50

g. School Organization Fee (High School)—Not more than P25

h. Anti-TB Fee for Elementary and High School—Not more than P5

3. Authorizes the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent Teacher Community Association (PTCA) to collect an annual PTA/PTCA fee in an amount to be determined by the PTA/PTCA members themselves at a meeting called for the purpose, provided such collections are made on voluntary basis and are not required for admission or transfer purposes and are collected by the PTA/PTCA representatives and not by the public school teachers.

Before any collection is done, the following reports are required to be submitted to the school principal: PTA/PTCA resolution approving the collection of fees for the current school year and a report on receipts and expenditures of PTA/PTCA fees collected in the preceding school year.

Why the issue of collecting voluntary contributions can't seem to be resolved, school year after school year, may be due to the following reasons:

1. Relevant documents such as department orders, memoranda, circulars are not properly disseminated to the parties concerned and are not discussed in conferences.

2. The same documents are left unread, inside the drawers ("where they just sleep there and they just die there") of the district supervisors and principals.

3. Some school officials may have their own agenda in so far as fund-raising drives or collection of "voluntary" of contributions are concerned.

These may also be the reasons teachers collect unpaid contributions at the end of the school year as a requisite for the issuance of a school clearance or report card.

—ARMANDO F. ORDOÑEZ,
San Vicente, Pili, Camarines Sur

Exploration in Visayan strait protested

THE PLANNED OFFSHORE MINING exploration project in the Cebu-Bohol Strait is not alarming. It is revolting.

The government agencies tasked with protecting the environment have become willing apologists, partners and lackeys of destructive foreign corporations. They have become blind to the devastating effects of exploration in Tañon Strait. They ignore credible scientific data showing that the Tañon Strait exploration has resulted in fish kills, reduced fish catch, destroyed fishing gear and fish aggregation devices, and caused health-related problems.

The corporations and government agencies involved in the Cebu-Bohol exploration project are hiding important project details from the public. Their claims regarding energy independence is nothing but an attempt to mislead the Visayans and make the "poison" more palatable.

As in Tañon Strait, a large part of the Cebu-Bohol Strait, one of the global centers of marine biodiversity, is protected. Like Tañon, it is a migratory path and breeding ground for species from other countries.

The exploration will not only affect the local economy and tourism of Cebu and Bohol, it will have great repercussions on food security in the Visayas, the Philippines and the world.

In Tañon, Japex failed to compensate the owners of *payao* and other fish aggregating devices destroyed during the exploration; the corporations and government agencies involved failed to identify and implement alternative livelihood for the affected communities; no amount of assurance can allay our fears regarding the project.

The Department of Energy acted recklessly in issuing a certificate of non-coverage to NorAsian without the consent of local government authorities and the affected communities. It is condemnable that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Environment Management Bureau failed to act against the obvious destruction of protected areas.

With this, we demand that the project be entirely scrapped. We cannot allow irreparable damage to our marine sources to raise a few million pesos for a few corrupt officials in government.

We call on the government agencies in the area to reiterate their strong stand against the project. We also urge environmental advocates and organizations to protest the destruction of our marine resources.

Instead of pursuing destructive projects, we urge the government to channel its efforts in improving the lives of the marginalized fisherfolk and in developing clean and renewable energy sources. The latter thrust can save the Philippines $2.3 billion annually.

Based on the Worldwide Fund for Nature-Philippines' 10-year PowerSwitch scenario, the country can reduce its dependence on fossil fuel to 28 percent by 2012 from the current 61 percent.

Stop offshore mining. Junk the Mining Act of 1995. Defend the people. Defend the seas.

—YOWEE GONZALEZ,
convenor,
Defend Our Sea Coalition;
VINCE CINCHES,
executive director,
Central Visayas Fisherfolk Development Center Inc.

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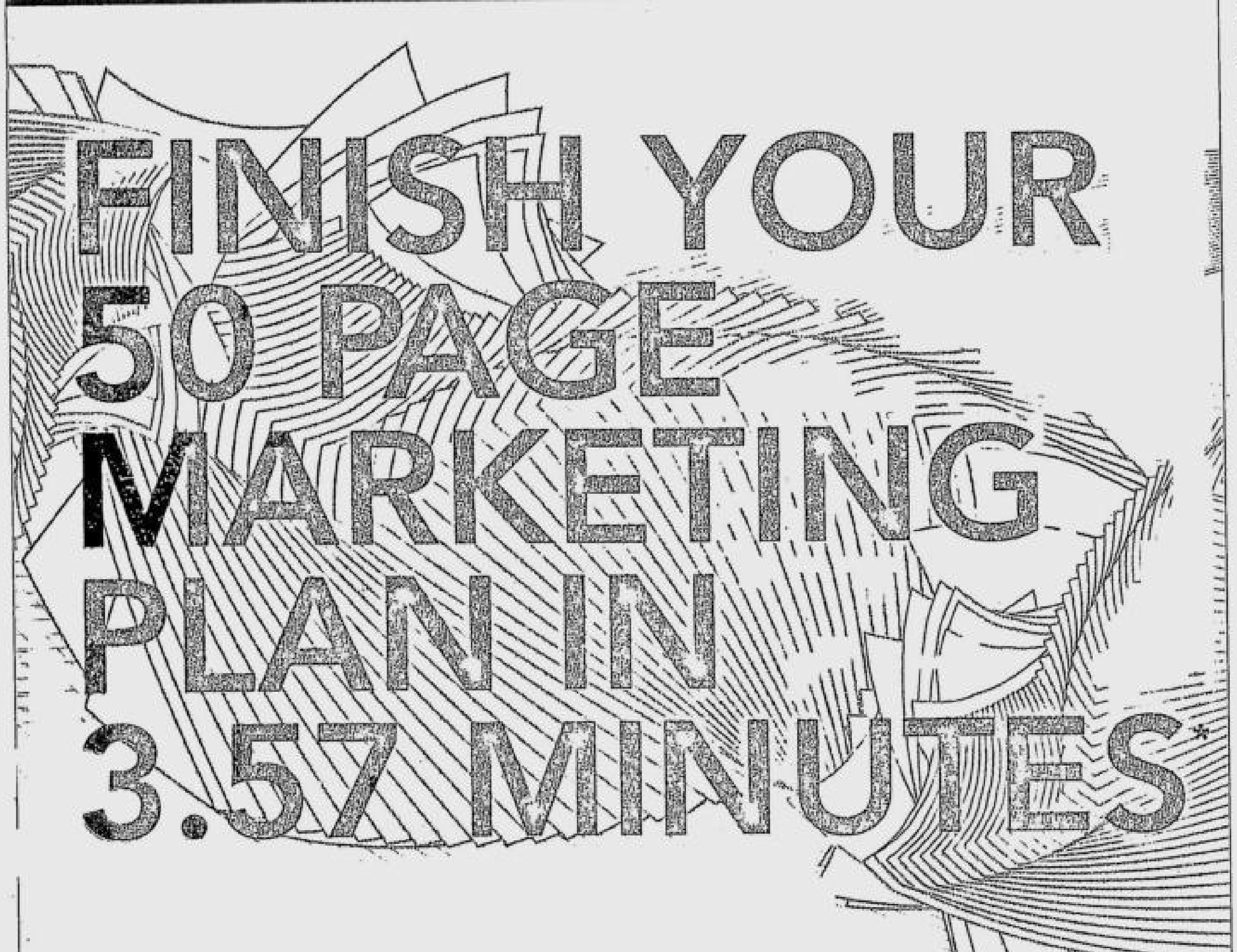
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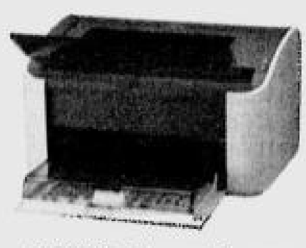
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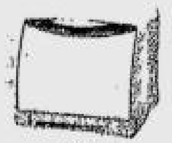
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The story of the Ilocano diaspora

By Peter La. Julian
Batac, Ilocos Norte

IN ONE OF HIS BOOKS, HISTOrian Teodoro Agoncillo explained the peripatetic trait of the Ilocano (or Ilokano)—their land was too small and unproductive so they have to look for greener pastures elsewhere.

> They may be exiles in their adopted countries, but Ilocanos always come back to their roots

The Ilocos' narrow territory was bound as it did to produce an industrious, hardy and frugal people, Agoncillo said. It was originally called Ylocos and consisted of what is now known as Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

La Union, one of the Ilocos provinces, was organized in 1840 out of several towns of Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province and Pangasinan.

But before they set foot on the cold regions of Alaska and Canada, the sugar plantations of Hawaii and the desert of the Middle East, the Ilokano people first "colonized" non-Ilocano areas where there were then big tracts of uncultivated lands: Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Apayao (when it was still part of the old Mt. Province), Pangasinan, Zambales and Tarlac.

That was in the 1900s when waves after waves of Ilocano people left their homeland by foot, then via the *kareton* (carabao or cow-drawn wagons) or *biray* (small wooden boats) to the virgin lands east. Later, in the 1950s, they would go farther south—Mindoro, Palawan and Mindanao, and even Sulu and Basilan.

Economics

Ilocano migration was economically motivated. People looked for job and bigger tracts of land to cultivate, said one of the speakers in a recent international gathering of 182 educators, scholars and writers from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, the United States and Japan.

Called Nakem (Consciousness of Maturity), the three-day event tackled the Ilocano diaspora, language and culture at the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Dr. Antonio Tamayao of the Cagayan State University cited his study of 13 Cagayan towns that were predominantly Ilocano.

No other ethnolinguistic group sought land and spread across the country as relentlessly as the Ilocano, according to Dr. Jaime Raras of the University of Northern Philippines, who presented a paper on the subject.

And no other group in great numbers sought fortune outside the country as it did. As early as 1840, substantial number of Iloko (or Iluko) speakers have been employed in homes, in the military and even in the White House, said Ana Marcelo, a fourth-generation Ilocano of Sacramento, California.

Marcelo, whose ancestors came from Batac, presented a study tracing the odyssey of an extended Ilocano family in California spanning eight decades.

The pioneers may have departed but their personal legacy, Ilocano identity, and ties to their town have survived among their children and grandchildren in California, she said.

Marcelo also made a study titled "Agpamakanda: 150 Years of Ilokanos in America's Restaurants." She said the study focused on the US mainland, where most of the Ilocano diaspora story took place.

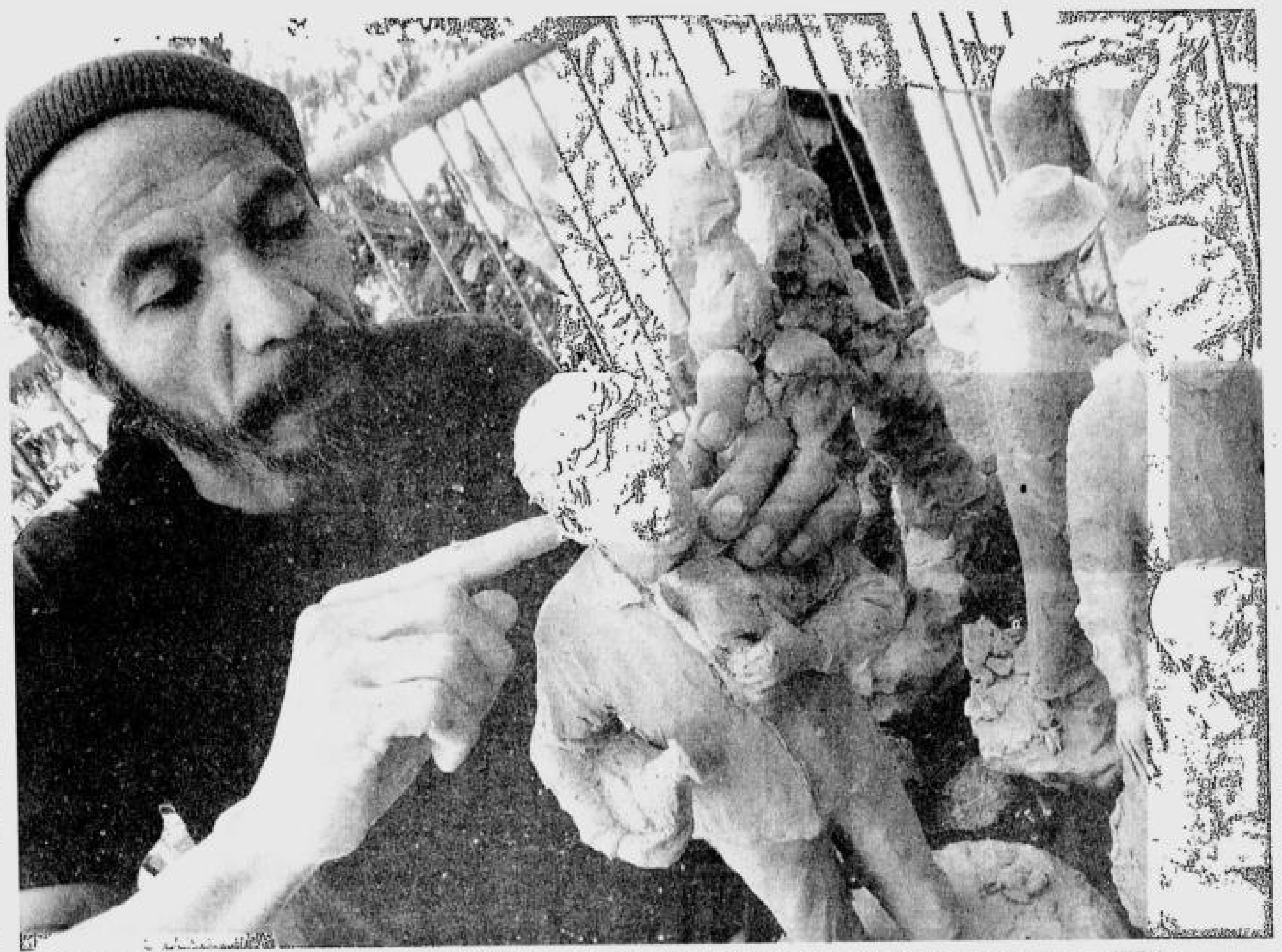
But, as claimed by one of the speakers, citing a Hawaii-based Filipino author, the most notable aspect of the history of the diaspora is their settlement in Hawaii, where the first arrivals in the early 1900s were hired sugar plantation labor.

Ilocano migration continues until now as relatives petition those left behind in the Ilocos.

Today, there is an Ilocano subculture in the Aloha State, where 15 percent of its more than a million residents are Filipinos, 80 percent of whom are of Ilocano blood. Last year, Hawaii honored the first 15 Ilocano hired hands by holding the Filipino Centennial Celebration.

Raras, who concentrated his study in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, which has a heavy concentration of Ilocano people, asked: Did they bring with them their cultural practices?

Yes, they did, Raras said, and their "Ilocanoness" in their newfound land is still intact, taking into account such variables as kinship gathering, culinary arts, beliefs in the supernatural, recreation and other Ilocano values.



BAGUIO-BASED artist Kigao Rosimo puts the finishing touches on the sculptures of the 15 Ilocanos who started the wave of Filipino migration to the United States in the early 1900s.
EV ESPIRITU

Another look at CICM legacy

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

FORMER SEMINARIANS WITH anecdotes and funny stories about their experience under the CICM (Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae) missionaries could help cap the centennial celebration of the influential Catholic congregation's legacy in the Philippines.

A book, tentatively titled "CICM Street," is being put together by aspiring priests and former seminarians who hope to offer another look at the CICM that will make people laugh and still rediscover their faith, said Nestor Fajardo, an instructor of the CICM-run Saint Mary's University in Nueva Vizcaya.

"Too many people feel the CICM as holier than thou. We want to show this generation we are human, and had a grand time [under the CICM tutelage] … We also want to animate the CICM vocation to recruit new blood," Fajardo said.

The Belgian-sponsored CICM will celebrate its centennial in the country in November, although it began commemorating the event in February.

It was "originally conceptualized by [the late Belgian priest] Theophile Verbist as the Belgian Mission for China," according to Carlos Medina, in his book titled "CICM Missionaries and Indigenous Filipinos."

School system

But this order evolved into a mission that has been credited for building up a Philippine school system, Medina said. Medina teaches at the Saint Louis University (SLU) in Baguio City, one of many institutions founded by the CICM.

Many Belgian missionaries stayed on as teachers. In fact, toward the 1970s, retired Belgian priests were allowed to continue teaching grade school pupils in Baguio.

Many of them have since died, Fajardo said. A few have retired in Baguio's Home Sweet Home facility.

Even the Belgian order that started the CICM has disintegrated, Fajardo said, because no more young priests have been joining missionary work.

Colorful homage

The "CICM Street" is a colorful homage to these priests, he said.

"We came up with the idea over drinks. I recently relocated to Nueva Vizcaya from Baguio, and I met up with former seminarians from Indonesia and from Nueva Vizcaya, and we realized we did not know much about each other, except through jokes and anecdotes about the seminary," he said.

One manuscript, which a board of editors is studying, discusses how seminarians had coped with their "newfound poverty."

Entering priesthood, under the CICM tutelage, required seminarians to be humble, Fajardo said, so "we were not allowed too many luxuries back then."

Vibrant

Fajardo said seminary life was "vibrant" because they cherished every special moment. "In the seminary, when a meal called for ice cream, we had a feast," he said.

Many of the seminarians he has worked with studied at the Maryhurst Seminary in Baguio, but Fajardo has been touring Luzon to get in touch with former seminarians to get "those laughs coming" before the book goes into circulation by yearend.

Old seminary records were lost when the seminary was gutted by fire in the 1990s, he said.

He began tracking down former seminarians in old telephone books and records kept by the SLU.

So far, Fajardo has received six manuscripts from his travels.

"I already have good stories from my travels, so I will add those to the book. I won't edit out the CICM history. I will not even ignore contributions from the Missionaries of Jesus," he said. The Missionaries of Jesus are comprised of Filipino priests who broke away from the CICM recently over philosophical disputes.

"But many of these priests are friends, and they have good memories about the CICM. They help make a very good story …," Fajardo said.

Good read

But the CICM's history in the country already makes a good read, he said.

Medina wrote that the congregation ventured into the country in the middle of a political turmoil.

The Belgian missionaries arrived here at the turn of the 20th century when Filipino priests have become part of the revolution which soon ousted Spain's Catholic friars. Filipino priests were also at the forefront of the Philippine-American conflict.

"Filipino priests participated in various revolutionary efforts and three priests were martyred in 1872. From 1890 onward, Gregorio Aglipay, a Filipino priest, rebelled with others against the continued failure to indigenize the Catholic Church and formed the Philippine Independent Church," Medina said.

"It is within this political context that the arrival of the CICM missionaries is to be seen. The Catholic Church had to struggle since the beginning of the revolution," he said.

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Execs get message Fr. Bossi is alive

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE ABDUCTORS OF ITALian priest Giancarlo Bossi have sent a text message to a government emissary that their captive is alive, a Marine general said yesterday.

But Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, chair of the government's Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag), said they were still trying to get more information.

Dolorfino, who heads non-military efforts to free the 57-year-old Bossi, told the INQUIRER that a Maranao emissary from Lanao had phoned him twice yesterday.

He said the emissary, who also helped in negotiations in kidnappings in the past, told him that the kidnappers sent a text message indicating that the priest is alive.

"We talked. He has direct contacts with the kidnappers. The kidnappers' word to him is implied. The priest is still alive," Dolorfino said by phone.

He said no ransom demand was discussed during their talk but the contact asked for money to buy medicines for Bossi.

Bossi, who suffers from hypertension, was snatched on his way to celebrate Mass in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10.

His captors have reportedly brought him to Lanao del Norte, particularly the town of Sultan Naga Dimaporo.

Government forces and Moro rebels have been deployed to the area to pressure the kidnappers into releasing their captive.

Dolorfino said he and the emissary "have close coordination" and they have been in contact since June 22.

"Hopefully we could establish direct contact with the kidnappers. We will know all about Bossi's condition if we can establish contact with them," Dolorfino said.

The Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), Bossi's religious order, said it has not received "proof of life" yet.

Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo, PIME superior in the Philippines, also expressed surprise at Dolorfino's statement about the contact with the kidnappers.

He said he was not aware of it.

"Up to now, nobody has ever contacted us, and nobody came forward to share information on the whereabouts of Fr. Giancarlo," he said.

Sandalo said the absence of any form of communication or contact has been an agony, not just for the PIME community here, but for other people close to Bossi as well.

"We are trying to be patient waiting for anything," he said.

Sandalo also said that while the PIME community continues to wait for developments, some people in Zamboanga Sibugay have organized themselves in an effort to help free the abducted priest. *Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

IBAGSAK ANG TERORISMONG JIMAAH ISLAMIA

IN DAVAO DEL SUR, students join a rally to condemn terrorism by the Jemaah Islamiyah in Mindanao.

ORLANDO DINOY/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Inquirer correspondent harassed by mayor

DIGOS CITY—INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT Orlando Dinoy yesterday said he now fears for his safety after Bansalan, Davao del Sur Mayor Peter Melchor Arches harassed him on Monday.

Dinoy, 28, a resident of Bansalan, said he was covering the indignation rally against terrorism held in the town when Arches approached him.

He said Arches first confronted him on reports coming out of the media about the supposed cheating and vote-buying in the town during the May 14 elections.

Dinoy said Arches was accusing him of feeding the information to other journalists.

"Why are you accusing me of such when I was not even involved in the campaign?" Dinoy said in defense.

But Arches, he said, was fuming mad and raised his hand as if to box him.

He said he ran away but Arches chased him until they caught the attention of many people, including a crew of the local ABS-CBN station.

Dinoy said Arches only stopped chasing him when he noticed the TV camera.

"But he told me not to show up during his oath-taking or he will beat me up," he quoted the mayor as saying.

Senior Insp. Sherwin Butil, Bansalan police chief, said he saw Arches and Dinoy during the rally and that the two were "like playing."

"I only came to know about the alleged harassment when I got to the police station," he said.

Butil said he will invite Arches later "because they are still busy preparing for their oath-taking."

Arches, who is on his third-term, was elected vice mayor during the elections.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Arches.

Bansalan Vice Mayor Edwin Reyes said the mayor does not carry a mobile phone nor has any contact number.

"I don't know where he is at the moment," he said.

Dinoy, who started working for the INQUIRER on May 14, said he would press charges against Arches.

He said that the filing of charges might deter Arches from further harassing him.

As a correspondent for the Inquirer, Dinoy said he could not avoid covering the municipal hall, where Arches holds office. *Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

NPA rebs attack police station

MALAYBALAY CITY—Communist rebels raided a police headquarters in Dangcagan town on Sunday, killing a policeman and taking assorted firearms.

Senior Supt. Juan Ratunil, provincial police chief, said SPO1 Danilo Noblefranca was killed when the rebels threw two grenades at the police headquarters.

The New People's Army (NPA) rebels took five M-16 Armalite rifles and two 9 mm pistols.

Ratunila said the rebels were on board two vans when they arrived at the headquarters.

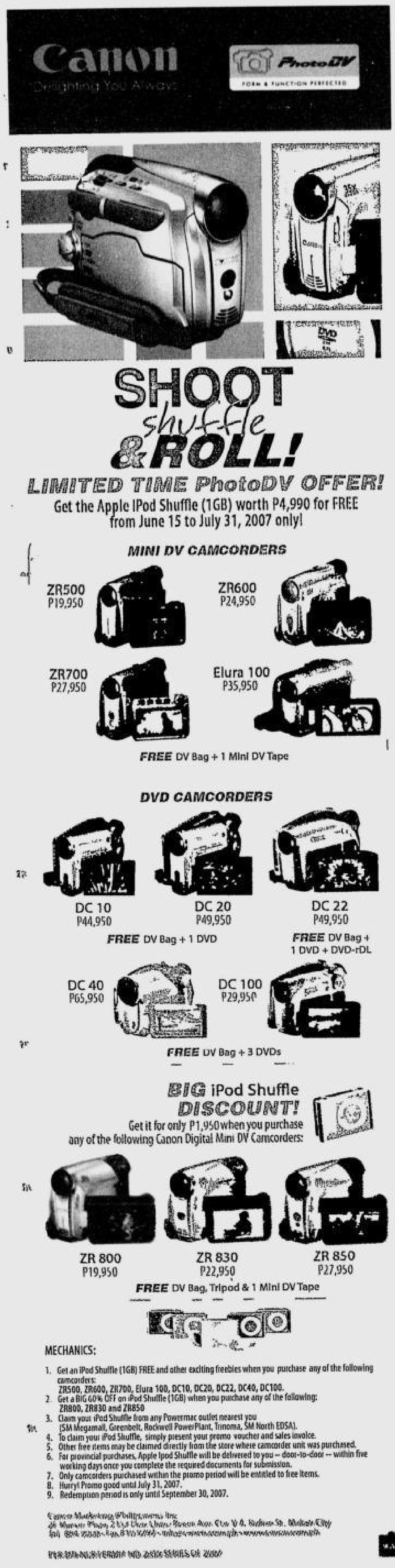
Two policemen were on duty at the time of the attack, said Ratunila.

A policeman returned fire, but the rebels lobbed the grenades, killing Noblefranca.

The armed men looted the police office and fled.

In August last year, NPA rebels raided a paramilitary base in a remote barangay in Valencia City from where they took 29 firearms.

In 2005, communist rebels also raided the Quezon town police headquarters from where firearms and office equipment were taken. *Grace Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*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US group condemns attacks on RP labor unions

STA. ROSA CITY, LAGUNA—AN international labor group and local labor alliances denounced the "unprecedented attacks" on labor activists and workers in factories in the country.

The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF), a Washington-based labor network, on Friday filed a petition with the Office of the US Trade Representatives to suspend the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits of the Philippines.

The GSP is a formal system of exemption from the more general rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Under this, the Philippines enjoys tariff preferences when exporting products to developed countries, such as the United States and those in Europe.

In a statement furnished the INQUIRER, the complaint accused the Philippine government of "systematically denying" the workers of their rights of freedom of association, to organize and to form and join unions.

Privilege cut

The author of the complaint, ILRF Staff Attorney Brian Campbell, said that unless the Philippine government took meaningful steps to end the use of violence and the misuse of the legal system to deny workers their rights, it should not receive special economic privileges from the United States.

Bama Athreya, ILRF executive director, said it was questionable for the United States to continue rewarding a government that allegedly violated workers' rights through the use of extrajudicial killings and other abusive techniques.

According to the petition, labor leaders and activists in the Philippines are being killed, abducted and subjected to surveillance, harassment, intimidation and grave threats by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and private security forces.

Accountable

It said the Philippine government had failed to investigate or hold those responsible accountable for the killings and abductions of union leaders and members.

The 2006 records of the International Trade Union Confederation showed that Philippine trade unionists and labor activists experienced 110 assaults on picket lines, 102 physical assaults and injuries, 41 instances of torture, 33 killings, 40 abductions, 748 instances of intimidation, 946 grave threats, 159 illegal arrests or detentions, and 1,097 instances of blocking, breaking up or violently dispersing demonstrations.

Laguna factories

Unions of two factories in Laguna were experiencing attacks from their management, Luz Baculo, secretary general of Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan told the INQUIRER.

She said the management of Chiyoda Integre Philippines Inc. and Nissan Motors Philippines were using all means to crush the union.

Since Friday, Nissan workers have been conducting protest rallies in front of the factory to call on management to comply with the decision of the Department of Labor and Employment, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

The DOLE and the CA, in separate moves, ordered the reinstatement of 144 Nissan workers with accrued salaries, computed from the time a strike in the company was launched in October 2001.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the two decisions.

The Nissan management said the decisions were contentious, pointing to a still pending petition with authorities. *Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Benguet execs clash over ₱33M in new infra projects

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—DEBATE marked the provincial board's last session here on Monday over a list of infrastructure projects worth P33 million which some officials claimed was a case of midnight appropriation.

The clash over a provincial development council resolution that endorsed the projects took close to three hours to settle amid observations that the measure actually brought Gov. Borromeo Melchor and Mayor Nestor Fongwan into a collision course.

Fongwan, who beat Melchor in the May 14 gubernatorial contest, will assume office on June 30.

The governor's office finalized the list of 135 projects that were endorsed by the provincial development council (PDC) to the provincial board for approval.

Melchor heads the five-member council as chair with Fongwan as member representing the province's mayors.

No signature

Fongwan did not sign the PDC resolution, saying the budget for the projects in the list did not "operationalize" the approved town and barangay development plans.

In his letter to the PDC, Fongwan said "some concerned sectors and key personnel of the provincial government were allegedly not consulted for comments on the fund proposals for the projects."

Board Member Lizo Agpas, committee chair on appropriations, said the formulation of the projects and the PDC resolution complied with existing regulations.

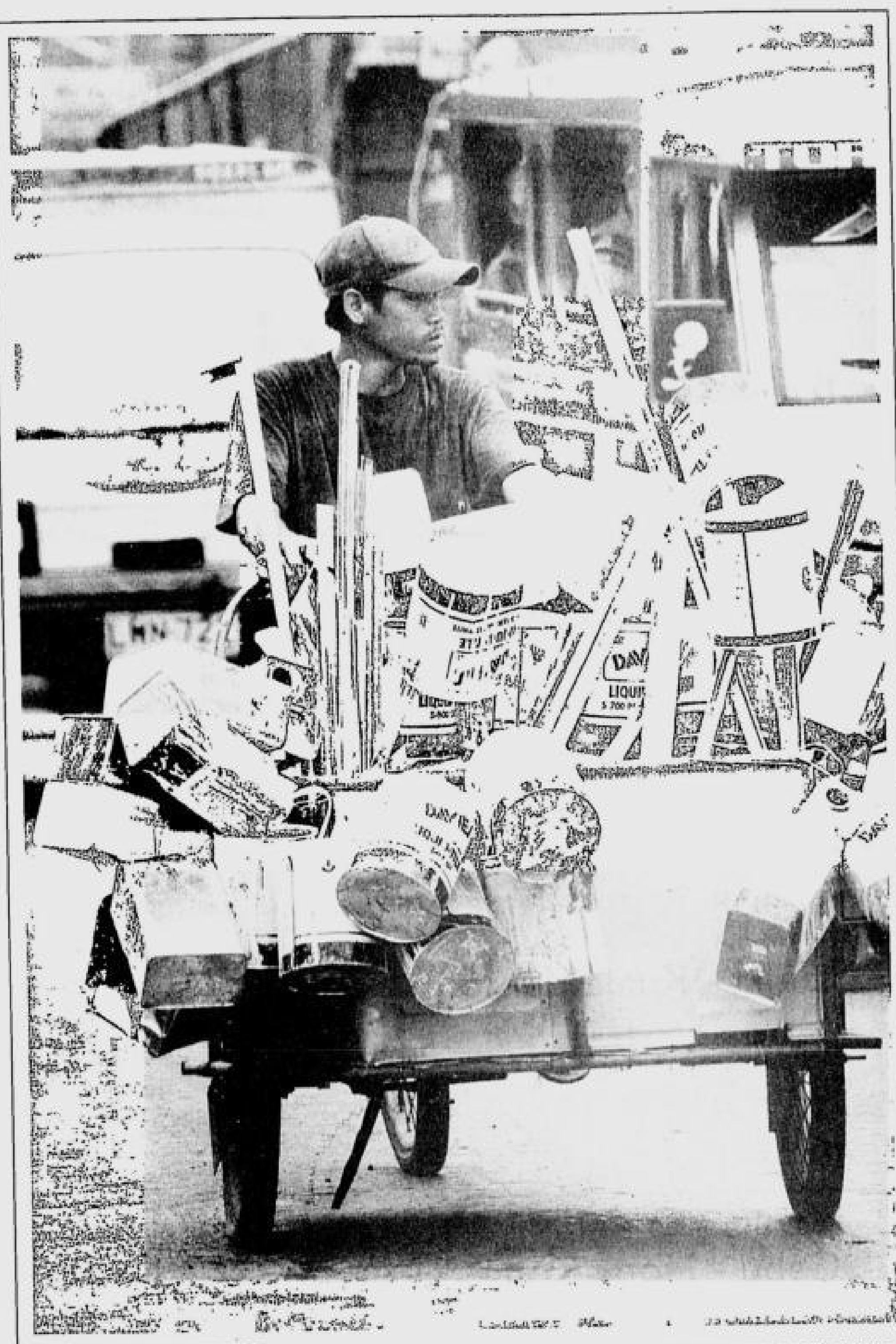
He said Fongwan's observations were merely "hearsay" and called for the provincial board to vote on the PDC resolution since the projects were properly studied and were meant to develop the villages.

But Board Members Aloysius Kato and Johnny Uy objected to the motion calling for a vote on the PDC resolution since it appeared that the measure was being unusually fast tracked.

Midnight deal

"The P33 million is a midnight appropriation," Kato later told reporters.

Kato and Uy urged the provincial board to defer action on the measure and leave its fate to the incoming set of board members. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

DAY'S COLLECTION
A junk shop worker pushes his cart full of used cans on his way to a trader in Ulas, Davao City.

IBP reminds lawyers of unpaid dues

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST HALF OF the country's 50,000 lawyers may not be able to practice their profession anymore unless they immediately pay their dues with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).

Ramon Edmon Batacan, incoming governor of the IBP in Eastern Mindanao, said the Supreme Court had already issued a directive to remove delinquent members from the organization.

He said this would mean that those removed from the list could no longer practice their profession.

Practicing lawyers are required to place their Professional Tax Receipt (PTR) numbers and IBP official receipt (OR) numbers in all their court pleadings.

Each lawyer must pay P1,000 in annual IBP dues but they can also make a one-time payment of P15,000 if they opt for the lifetime dues.

Manuel Quibod, IBP Davao chapter president, said most of those who failed to pay their dues were working with the government.

Quibod told reporters yesterday that some lawyers tended to forget paying their dues while others were simply not serious in paying up.

One reason is that lawyers who work in the government seldom make court pleadings, he said.

"Another is the laxity of the IBP in collecting dues from them," he said.

In Davao City, Quibod said about 60 lawyers had been listed as delinquent but some of them have died or migrated abroad.

Annual fee collections are very important for the IBP because these help fund the organization's projects, Batacan said. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

Free legal service lacks manpower

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Public Attorney's Office, the government's frontline agency in providing free legal services to poor Filipinos, is staffed only with 66 lawyers in Central Luzon and swamped with 419 cases as of May.

The case overload, increasing at an average of 50 a month, makes it important to immediately implement Republic Act 9406, according to Salvador Hipolito, regional public attorney.

Signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo on March 23, RA 9406 reorganizes the PAO as an independent and autonomous office attached to the Department of Justice for purposes of policy and program coordination.

It also ensures a grant of special allowances to the chief, deputy chief, regional, provincial, city and municipal public attorneys and other PAO lawyers. The grant shall "not exceed 100 percent of the basic salary of the PAO officials and lawyers."

It also authorized government lawyers to "extend financial and other support in the form of honoraria, free office space, equipment, furniture, stationery and manpower to the PAO."

The Department of Budget and Management and PAO were given 90 days to issue the law's implementing rules and regulations.

Employment option

Hipolito said the special allowances and support would make working at the PAO an attractive employment option to new lawyers.

Most lawyers find private practice to be more lucrative, it was learned.

Public attorneys I get a monthly basic pay of P20,800 while those ranked II get a little over P21,000.

They are banned from doing private practice as they assist the 205 courts in the region's seven provinces.

Only a few lawyers have applied for public attorneys. Many have preferred to apply as clerks of court, a post where the salary is higher and the benefits bigger, he said.

The PAO extends legal help to clients from low-income families. Cases are taken depending on their merits, Hipolito said. Most of the cases are criminal suits.

Since PAO lawyers are prohibited to receive fees from the clients, the government gives them travel allowances ranging from P6,000 to P8,000 a month. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

ROUNDUP

4 held for fake P1,000 bills

BALANGA CITY—Police arrested four people for allegedly using fake P1,000 bills in Morong town. Store owners led police to the four after they used the fake bills in paying for items at the public market.

Police identified the suspects as Noel Maranan, William Macaranas, Jerry Odiem, and Marg Angeles, all of Malabon City. Three of them were arrested at the Subic Bay Freeport in nearby Zambales.

Police said the vendors settled the case with the suspects, prompting policemen to release them. Police, however, confiscated 10 pieces of fake P1,000 bills from the suspects. ***Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Flights to Ozamiz to resume

OZAMIZ CITY—Air Philippines is set to start commercial flights into this city on July 16, according to Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog. The announcement was made following a meeting between Air Philippines executives and the mayor last week.

The Manila-Ozamiz flights will be every Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at noon. The return of commercial flights into the city came 10 years after Philippine Airlines took Ozamiz off its route because of losses.

The Ozamiz route was said to be a "missionary route" for PAL at that time. According to Parojinog, the city's Labo Airport is now able to accommodate wide-bodied jets after it was expanded with help from the national government. ***Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao***

Cops open hot line

BAGUIO CITY—Police opened cell phone number 0920-4222861 to encourage the public to report crimes through text.

Senior Supt Moises Guevarra, city police chief, said the "Text mo si Hepe" program has contributed a lot in preventing crimes in the city. Guevarra said they have been receiving an average of 48 text messages in a day on reports of gang wars, cell phone thefts and traffic problems.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Franco, chief of Cordillera police's investigation and detection management, said the crime efficiency solution has increased to 90 percent in the first half of 2007 compared to 86 percent last year. ***Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Feeds firm returns to Laguna

LIVESTOCK AND FOWL breeders and farmers in Laguna were apprised of the latest in disease prevention, new technology and efficient farm management during the launch on June 9 of V-Day Para sa Bayani ng Ating Bayan by Vitarich Feeds Inc.

The day-long seminar was held at Tara Resort in Bay, Laguna, with more than 200 hog, broiler, game fowl and aqua breeders from all over the province in attendance. The event coincided with the opening of Tara Farms Trading owned by Bong Sandoval as the new distributor of Vitarich Feeds in Laguna. The company plans to bring V-Day to farmers from Luzon to Mindanao.

2 robbers draw life terms

BACOLOD CITY—The Regional Trial Court (RTC) sentenced two men to imprisonment of 40 years each for the death of a woman they robbed in a public utility jeep here.

Judge Roberto Chiongson found Antonio Aguia Ellera and Dexter Tacuyo Tegalio guilty of robbery with homicide. Chiongson described the two as "habitual pickpockets and muggers."

The court also required them to pay the heirs of their victim, Editha Geplelago, P50,000 in indemnity, P38,000 in burial expenses and P100,000 in moral damages.

Geplelago was on her way to the market when she was held up. She fell off the jeep she was riding and died later. ***Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

NPA leader arrested

TACLOBAN CITY—Army soldiers arrested a suspected leader of the New People's Army in Paranas, Samar.

Capt. Mario Jose Chico, of the public affairs division of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City, Samar, identified the suspect as Roberto Gacuma.

Gacuma and his group allegedly stormed the police station of Calbiga, Samar, in March 2003.

Soldiers arrested Gacuma at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday in an abandoned house in Barangay Lipata, 4 kilometers from Paranas town. ***Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas***

Vice mayor shot dead

DAGUPAN CITY—The outgoing vice mayor of San Manuel, Pangasinan, was killed while his driver was wounded when a lone assailant shot them in Urdaneta City, police said.

Vice Mayor Boni Apilado was shot at close range by the gunman who alighted from a motorcycle while the official was talking to a man in front of an automotive repair shop in Barangay San Vicente in Urdaneta at 2 p.m.

Apilado, who was hit twice in the head, died at 4 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Urdaneta City. ***Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

California mayor awarded

DAGUPAN CITY—Mayor Jose Esteves of Milpitas City in California led outstanding Dagupeños who were honored June 20 during the city's celebration of its 60th founding anniversary.

Esteves, a native of this city, immigrated to the United States in 1981 where he worked as an engineer. He was first elected mayor of Milpitas in November 2002 and reelected in November 2006.

DPWH engineer shot, killed

CABANATUAN CITY—An official of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Nueva Ecija was shot and killed by a lone assailant in Talavera town on Tuesday afternoon.

Police said Pacifico Berin, 64, DPWH district engineer in the province's first district, was attacked after attending a birthday party of one of his employees in an eatery in Barangay San Miguel na Munti at past noon. Berin died instantly from seven bullet wounds. ***Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Brigida Junia; 84

BRIGIDA L. Junia, of Tolosa, Leyte, died on June 25. She was 84.

She is survived by her sons Rene, Jun, Butch, Rey, Pete and Chino, and their families, and sister Conchita Guerrero.

Her remains lie at the St. Faustina Hall, Parish of Lord of Divine Mercy, at 1 Maamo St., corner Mapagsangguni Street, Sikatuna Village, Diliman, Quezon City, and will be brought to Tolosa, Leyte, tomorrow.

Interment is on July 3 after a 9:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Michael's Church in Tolosa.

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GMA to seal oil exploration venture ...

From page A1

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo's trip to the West African nation was also crucial to forging a possible joint venture between Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. and its Equatorial Guinea counterpart.

"This is very significant considering that Equatorial Guinea is a major producer of oil, even bigger than Brunei as far as oil production is concerned," Bunye said.

Bunye said Equatorial Guinea had estimated offshore oil reserves of 1.28 billion barrels. According to him, the African nation lacked technical expertise in offshore drilling which the Philippines could provide.

The press secretary did not provide further details on the proposed joint venture.

Ms Arroyo is also expected to tour the Campo Alba Oil Field Complex and meet with the 2,500 overseas Filipino workers there.

"This will be a good occasion to visit them and ensure that they are treated well by their employers," she said in her departure statement.

Ms Arroyo will be the first Philippine leader to visit the former Spanish colony that has become one of Africa's oil producers that include Nigeria, the world's sixth largest exporter, Angola and Gabon.

A British oil and gas company last week announced that it had discovered up to 600 million barrels of oil on the West Cape Three Points block off Ghana's coast in West Africa.

In nearby Benin, drilling is soon to begin in the 470-kilometer coastal sedimentary basin that runs from Ghana to Nigeria.

European, American, Australian, Russian and Chinese investors have shown keen interest in the development of the oil industry in West Africa despite the fact the region represents less than a third of the total African production. Africa accounts for less than 12 percent of world production, far behind the Middle East, Russia and Brazil.

Despite the oil riches, an overwhelmingly majority of their people live in dire poverty and earn less than a dollar a day. Critics say the oil riches are enjoyed only by those in power and their associates. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, AP and AFP*

Mike A at 61: '20 lb lighter, 10 years younger'

From page A1

family dinner for her husband's birthday.

Since he was discharged on May 1 from St. Luke's Medical Center, where he underwent an aneurysmectomy, Arroyo has not been seen in public. He has not appeared in any public event of the President, including the Independence Day vin d'honneur which normally requires his presence as the President's husband.

But Duque and Soliman told the INQUIRER that Arroyo had almost fully recovered since his emergency heart operation on April 9. The two officials attended the introduction of the First Gentleman Foundation's second batch of medical scholars at Heroes Hall in Malacañang.

Close to full recovery

"He looks very good. He's 30-percent lighter. His color is OK, he looks 20 years younger," Duque said in a phone interview.

Though he had not examined him, Duque said Arroyo "looks close to being fully recovered."

"He was walking, he climbed the stairs although he was a bit slow. But he looks better," the secretary said.

Soliman denied that Arroyo's recovery had slowed. She said the First Gentleman had been going to his office in Makati City at least three times a week.

During the affair at Heroes Hall, Soliman said the executive director of the Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Carmelo Alfiler, described the President's husband as "hale and healthy."

"He is 20 pounds lighter and 10 years younger," Soliman quoted Alfiler as saying.

Hospital visits

Arroyo goes thrice a week to St. Luke's for his cardiac rehabilitation. Doctors have advised him to avoid all stressful activities, especially in the first three months of recovery, to avoid the recurrence of an aneurysm in his blood vessels that could lead to a stroke or heart attack.

Arroyo was barred from travelling, playing golf and was asked to follow a strict low-fat, low-salt diet.

A preview of the video recording of the launch of the second batch of 50 scholars of the FG Foundation showed Arroyo looking much better than when he was discharged from the hospital.

Advance celebration

Wearing a blue *barong* Tagalog, the President's husband walked unaided to the stage to deliver brief remarks. He went around the hall to shake hands with his guests and posed for pictures with the beneficiaries of his scholarship program.

In his remarks, Arroyo said he would finance the schooling of doctors and help them pursue their specializations after he got a new lease on life.

"This is indeed a very good advanced celebration for me," he said. "As you know, I'm still recuperating from a life-threatening operation and I'm thankful to God that I went through, that I survived because it's only a very small percentage that survives and I'm really now a walking miracle."

Only 10 percent of those who have his condition survive, he said.

'Bagong Espesyalista'

"And that's why I will constantly follow up on our medical program because God gave me a new lease on life," Arroyo said.

Soliman said that apart from its other programs, the FG Foundation had a scholarship program for poor students taking up medicine at the University of the Philippines and the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Last year, there were 50 medical scholars. The second batch of 50 scholars was presented on Tuesday.

Soliman said the foundation had a new program dubbed "Bagong Espesyalista," which supports the specialization studies of doctors who would serve in rural areas.

Arroyo said he wanted to help doctors pursue their specializations after his operation.

An 18-member medical team, which included St. Luke's top specialists, took charge of Arroyo's operation and recovery, including heart surgeon Dr. Rommel Cariño and attending physician Dr. Juliet Cervantes.

"It's a new field we are launching, this Espesyalista (program). Maybe this is an offshoot of my operation. Ever since my operation, I have been looking for specialists who can continue their education and further help the people," he said.

'Pinoy MD'

Addressing Duque, Arroyo said his scholarship program was meant to complement the Department of Health's "Pinoy MD," a rehash of the "Doctors to the Barrios" program which entices doctors to serve in the countryside instead of going abroad.

"It's very important for us to serve our people," he told his scholars.

"We will take care of your education, your allowance. In return, you don't have to give anything to us but you have to serve our people for two years. That's all we ask—that you serve also our *kababayan*," he said.

Wife sues Iggy over depletion of ₱127M in assets

From page A1

In her petition, Aleli Arroyo requested the immediate dissolution, liquidation and distribution of their property.

She said that during their marriage, she and Iggy Arroyo acquired real and personal property, the majority of which were supposedly managed and controlled by the latter.

She listed the assets they owned as of 2005: Three houses in Las Vegas, Nevada; two properties in La Vista, Quezon City (she said that the second property—an 8,000-square-meter lot—was supposedly being encroached on by the houses of the First Couple's two sons, Mikey and Dato Arroyo); two condominium units; lots in Muntinlupa, Tagaytay and Subic, and two haciendas in Negros Occidental.

Asked to comment by INQUIRER Visayas, Congressman Arroyo said it was Aleli, not he, who had "raided" their conjugal assets.

"She is the one who depleted our resources," he said, adding that Aleli had sold their shares of stock and "raided" their joint accounts in the Philippines and the United States.

The congressman said he welcomed the complaint. He said he was planning to file one himself but that she had beaten him to it.

"I am glad she filed it," he said, adding that he would also seek the inclusion of a petition for annulment of their marriage.

4 farms, etc.

Aleli Arroyo said that while it was not indicated in the lawmaker's SAL, she had been informed that he had "acquired four farms for American-bred fighting cocks in Antipolo and Iloilo."

She said she had also been informed that the lawmaker recently acquired other assets, including a house in San Juan City, a flat in London, two condominium units in Metro Manila, a property in Arizona and another condominium unit in Boston, Massachusetts.

"However, these properties were not declared by the respondent in his SAL filed in 2007," she said in her petition.

She added that Congressman Arroyo had been buying and selling real property abroad without declaring that he was married, "clearly to keep [these] transactions hidden" from her.

Aleli also said she and her husband had acquired shares of stock in seven companies. She enumerated the motor vehicles, jewelry, paintings and antiques they supposedly owned, including several bank accounts of which she said she was a signatory to only two.

In one year

In his 2006 SAL, Congressman Arroyo declared under oath that the absolute community of property had a total net worth of P287,092,973.53, Aleli said. However, the following year, his SAL showed that he had only P160,226,763.18 worth of property.

"This means that in a span of only one year, respondent managed to remove from his SAL such assets belonging to the absolute community of property amounting to P126,866,209.35," she said.

Quoting Article 135 of the Family Code, which considers as sufficient causes for judicial separation of property the abandonment of the petitioner by his or her spouse and the separation of the spouses for at least one year, Aleli asked the court to dissolve the properties.

"Necessarily, such assets of the absolute community of property that were surreptitiously disposed of by respondent without the consent of petitioner should be charged to respondent's share upon the dissolution," she said.

Aleli likewise asked for an accounting and inventory of the total property before its dissolution.

She said the accounting was "crucial" because she had been informed that the lawmaker "purchased various houses, vehicles and jewelry for his mistresses."

The accounting to be rendered by the lawmaker would "hopefully" help the court "determine the exact value of the absolute community of property, the respective shares of the petitioner and respondent in the same, and the amount to be charged to the share of respondent," she said.

Lastly, Aleli asked the court to require Congressman Arroyo to provide support in the amount of P400,000 while the suit was in progress.

"Petitioner, who was constrained by respondent to become a full-time housewife, was suddenly left to shoulder at least P400,000 in monthly expenses to cover household bills, utilities, food, salaries of household staff, their daughter's expenses, school fees and credit card charges," she said.

Aleli also asked the court to appoint a receiver during the course of the litigation, or appoint her as the sole administrator of the absolute community of property while it had not yet been dissolved.

She said the move would prevent the further dissipation of the property.

To Aleli's claim that he was acquiring property for his "mistresses," Congressman Arroyo said she should show proof.

Bittersweet

In a press conference at her lawyer's office in Pasig City, Aleli Arroyo said the past three days had been bittersweet—on Sunday, she marked the first anniversary of their separation; on Monday, she celebrated her 45th birthday while preparing the complaint; and yesterday, she filed it in court.

The former broker and chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange related the details of their estrangement, which is now the subject of a case in a family court.

She said she had "never consented to any disposition of assets."

"Therefore," she said, "any dispositions made by Congressman Iggy involving the assets of absolute community property were in clear violation of the law."

Aleli said she was shocked at how quickly the money had gone: "It was actually a surprise. It was shocking."

She said she and her husband had not spoken since their separation last year.

"I suppose he's got people to support, like his mistresses," she said.

Aleli also said the complaint was the first step in the separation process. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas; Alcuin Papa in Manila*

Blair called 'the great convert' in Rome

From page A1

Cherie, is a lifelong and practicing Catholic, and in accordance with church rules their four children have been brought up as Catholics and were sent to church schools," The Guardian newspaper reported June 22.

His spiritual awakening goes back at least 30 years, to his time as an undergraduate at Oxford, but due to political considerations his conversion to Catholicism has been a long time coming.

The Guardian reported that more than 10 years ago, Blair was slipping into Westminster Cathedral and occasionally taking communion, until the late Cardinal Basil Hume told him to stop because it was causing comment as he was not a Catholic—an injunction that bemused him at the time.

Communion from John Paul

Blair is believed to have taken communion from the late Pope John Paul II during a visit to the Vatican in 2003, although the Vatican has never confirmed this.

In an interview with the another British publication on Saturday, Blair indicated his conversion may not be just around the corner.

Asked if he would convert, Blair said: "I don't want to talk about it. It's difficult with some of these things. Things aren't always as resolved as they might be."

The Guardian suggested that Blair may have been reluctant to convert during his tenure in office for fear of a potential conflict with his role in appointing Anglican bishops.

He may have also been wary of doing so while playing a key mediating role in the Northern Ireland peace process between the province's Catholic and Protestant communities.

The newspaper cited informed sources on Friday as saying Blair had been prepared for conversion by a Royal Air Force chaplain who had said private Mass for his family for the last four years.

Filipino bishop

A Filipino Catholic Church leader welcomed reports that Blair would soon be converting to the faith, seizing the occasion to invite Filipinos to ponder whether their own Catholic political leaders do fit that "brand."

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Church history had shown that "adult conversion," like the one being undertaken by one of the most powerful men in the world "is always a very sincere and firm judgment compared to being Catholics by birth."

"Needless to say, this is something much appreciated in the belief that the Catholic Church is the true deposit of the Gospel truths," Cruz said, in interview with the INQUIRER in Manila.

Message to Filipinos

This conversion of a renowned government leader sends the message to Catholics in the Philippines that, "more than brand names, what is really important is the reality behind the brand," he said.

"It's not a secret," Cruz noted, "that we have a good number of local and national leaders who bear the brand 'Catholic' but in reality they can be anything but true subscribers to Catholic faith and morals."

"It is not a question of being called a Catholic but rather the necessity of living the faith," he added.

Cruz said there were countries led by non-Catholic leaders "known for their natural honesty and sense of justice—and therefore these countries do not get titles such as "First Placer in Government Corruption."

The archbishop pointed out that Filipinos were governed, from the barangay level to the national government, by politicians 95 percent of whom are Catholic.

Farewell tour

On the final leg of his farewell world tour, Blair spoke privately with Pope Benedict for 25 minutes in the Pontiff's study.

The talks were then enlarged to include Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, head of England's Roman Catholics, further fueling the media speculation about Blair's conversion.

A Vatican statement made no reference to the issue of possible conversion of Blair.

Cherie accompanied Blair to the Vatican and was introduced to the Pope with the British delegation at the end of the private talks. As is the custom for the Pope's female visitors, she wore a black dress and a black veil.

The Pope and Blair discussed the international situation, Europe and the Middle East, the statement said. The Vatican welcomed Blair's intention to work for Middle East peace and inter-religious dialogue after he steps down.

Lunch at Catholic college

After his visit to the Vatican, Blair had lunch at the British Catholic College in Rome, the first British government leader to do so.

Despite much speculation about his religious beliefs, Blair has rarely commented on the issue, with his press spokesperson Alistair Campbell once telling reporters: "We don't do God."

The Daily Telegraph, quoting Church sources and friends of the prime minister, said on Friday that Blair may announce his conversion soon after meeting the Pope, while also noting that his views on abortion, stem cell research and other moral issues are at odds with traditional Catholic teachings.

The Vatican also opposed the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq in which London was Washington's main ally. *With reports from Volt Contreras and AFP*

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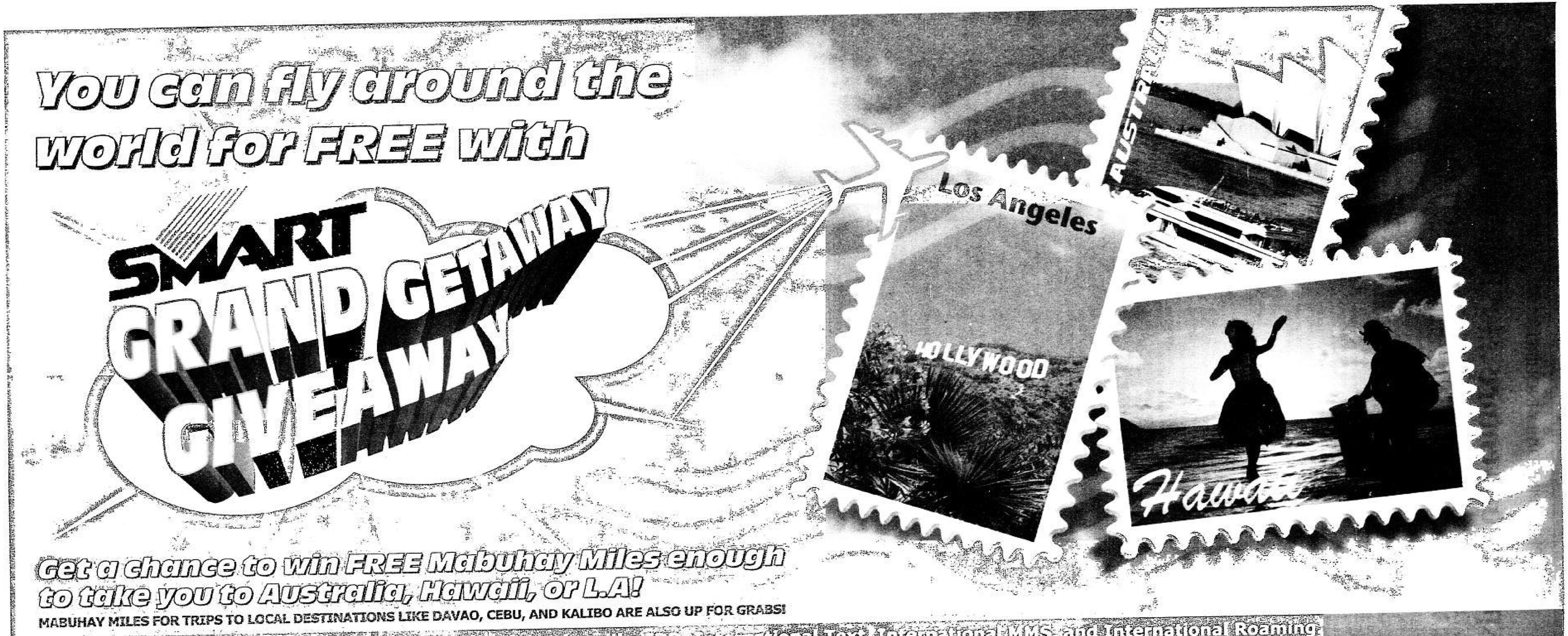

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Garci tapes expert dies in car mishap

Controversial engineer claimed recorded conversations tampered with

By Jeannette I. Andrade

JONATHAN TIONGCO, THE DIGITAL AUDIO ENgineer who examined the "Hello Garci" tapes and claimed that these had been tampered with, was killed in a car accident last Saturday.

Based on a police traffic report, the incident happened at 3:50 a.m. in front of the Commission on Audit office on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Tiongco, 36, was driving his car, a Toyota Avanza with license plate ZHE 496, on his way to Fairview from Tandang Sora when he slammed into an Isuzu dump truck parked by the side of the road. He sustained serious injuries while his vehicle was heavily damaged.

The driver of a taxi cab passing by the area brought him to the Far Eastern University Hospital. Tiongco died that night.

His body was brought yesterday to the St. Peter's Chapel on Quezon Avenue where the wake would be held. No date has been set for his burial. According to officials of St. Peter's, Tiongco's family had asked them to bar media men from attending the wake and to ban the use of cell phones in the viewing room.

Tiongco became controversial in 2005 when then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor presented him as an audio expert whom he hired to examine the "Hello Garci" tapes.

In a press conference, Tiongco said that his analysis showed that the tapes had been tampered with.

The tapes supposedly contain recorded phone conversations between Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Macapagal-Arroyo about ensuring her victory in the 2004 presidential elections.

A year earlier, anticrime crusader Teresita Ang See said that Tiongco, the son of a lawyer, had been passing himself off as a paralegal expert and offering assistance to relatives of suspected kidnappers who had been killed or jailed.

Tiongco subsequently presented several relatives of suspected kidnappers who accused then Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, who also headed the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, of ordering the kidnappings.

In August 2005, Tiongco filed charges against Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada, then Congressmen Francis Escudero and Gilbert Remulla, among others, in the Department of Justice.

He accused them of plotting to overthrow the Arroyo government. The complaint, however, was rejected by the DOJ.

Passenger abandons sacks of explosives materials in taxi cab

By Nancy Carvajal

NINE SACKS OF AMMONIUM nitrate, an ingredient used in making explosives, were left behind in a taxi cab by a man last Monday in Navotas City.

City police chief, Supt. Eric Reyes, said a police patrol car happened to pass by the taxi, driven by Alfredo Loreto, 30, a resident of Barangay Acacia, Malabon City, at around 4 p.m. on Governor Pascual.

When he spotted the police vehicle, the lone passenger, an unidentified man, got out of the vehicle and ran away, leaving the nine sacks of ammonium nitrate behind.

Reyes said the driver told the police that the man whom he called "Larry" flagged him down in Malabon City and asked that he be brought to Sipac, Navotas City.

The driver added that he did not know that the sacks contained ammonium nitrate. Larry reportedly told him that the sacks were full of fish food.

The police later released the driver after being convinced that he did not have anything to do with the sacks of explosive materials.

According to Reyes, they were now monitoring certain areas to determine if there were warehouses for ammonium nitrate in the city.

The ingredient is one of the precursors in the manufacture of dynamites also used in illegal fishing. Navotas hosts the biggest fish port in the country and is a major supplier of fish in Luzon.

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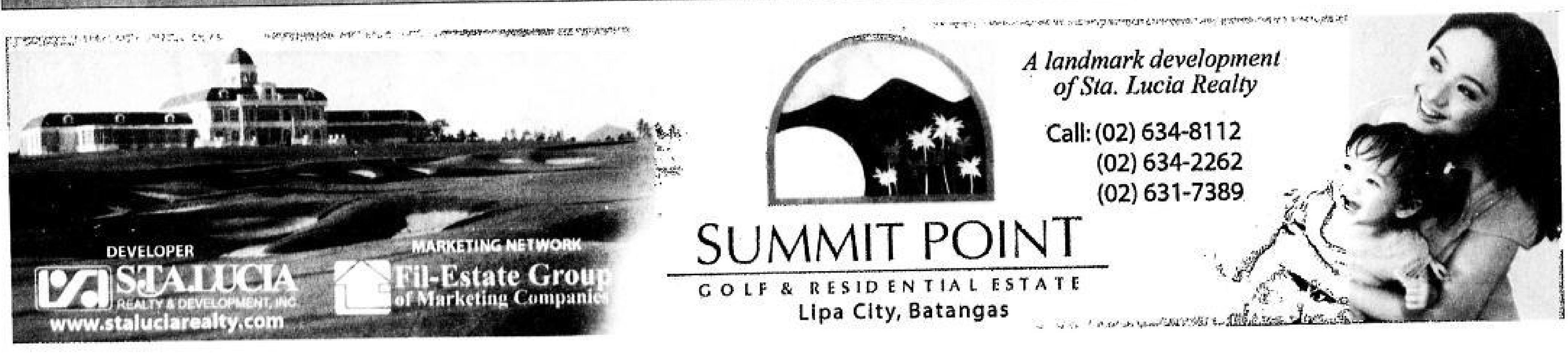
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10 QC cops charged for failing to take witness stand

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TEN MORE POLICEMEN WERE charged by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) for repeatedly ignoring their court duties, leading to the dismissal of drug cases and the release of suspected illegal drugs peddlers.

Of the 10, PO2 Victor Aquino, PO3 Zaldy Asama, PO3 Rene Saul, PO2 Reynaldo Labon, and PO1 Estelito Mortega had been charged earlier this month by the PDEA for violations of Sections 91 and 92 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The PDEA also filed the same charges against SPO2 Belto Coritara, PO2 Orlando Dionisio, PO1 Arnold Penalosa, PO1 Frederick Saet, and PO3 Cleto Montegrejo.

All of the accused are assigned at the Quezon City Police District in Camp Karingal.

In his complaint filed in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office on Monday afternoon, lawyer Joey Quiriones, chief of the PDEA prosecution and case monitoring division, said the agency established a National Drug Case Monitoring System that supervises the status of drug cases and the participation of government personnel involved.

"Since the establishment of the system, we have been receiving copies of decisions from various courts and prosecution offices," Quiriones said.

"Upon studying the documents, the PDEA found out that most of the cases were dismissed due to the nonappearances of police witnesses," he added.

Quiriones said the accused police officers were involved in the arrest of drug suspects in Quezon City. The suspects were subsequently charged in the city's regional trial courts. The PDEA lawyer explained that being poseur buyers and apprehending officers during the buy-bust operations, the presence and testimonies of the policemen were material and essential for the successful prosecution of the accused.

The police officers, however, failed to appear during the scheduled hearings of their respective cases, prompting the judge to ask them to explain why they should not be cited for contempt.

The judges assigned eventually issued orders dismissing the cases against the drug suspects "by reason of the repeated absence of the prosecution's witnesses therein."

"The dismissal caused by the police witnesses' nonappearance was fatal to the prosecution's cause and a serious blow to the government's drive to eradicate and punish to the fullest extent violators of the dangerous drugs law," Quiriones said.

Brownout in North Metro fouls up traffic, railway operations

By Riza T. Olchondra and Abigail L. Ho

SEVERAL AREAS IN METRO Manila and in nearby provinces experienced brownouts yesterday when lightning struck the 230-kilovolt (kV) San Jose-Balintawak line of the National Transmission Corp., cutting the power supply from four Luzon generation facilities.

In a statement, Transco said the tripping of the San Jose-Balintawak line also caused the Hermosa-Mexico and Cabanatuan-Mexico lines to trip.

The tripping of the lines later affected the power supply generated by the Ilijan gas-fired, Calaca coal-fired, Malaya thermal and Limay combined-cycle power plants operated by the National Power Corp.

Brownouts were felt at around 2 p.m. in parts of Cavite, Los Baños and Biñan in Laguna, Bulacan and Tayabas, Quezon.

Customers of the Manila Electric Co. in the northern part of Metro Manila, including Quezon City, Navotas, Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela were also affected.

Transco was able to restore power to the San Jose-Balintawak, Hermosa-Mexico and Cabanatuan-Mexico lines at around 3:30 p.m.

Some 45,000 commuters of the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2 and Metro Rail Transit were stranded for over an hour as the trains stopped operating due to the lack of power supply.

LRT Authority public relations officer Jinky Jorgio said in a text message that Line 1, which runs from Monumento to Baclaran and vice versa, resumed normal operations at around 2:30 p.m. Line 2 (from Recto to Santolan), on the other hand, started operating at around 3 p.m.

The MRT, meanwhile, was not as badly affected. Operations from the North Avenue station to Shaw Boulevard were stalled for a full hour. But operations from Shaw to Taft Avenue were unaffected throughout the power outage.

MRT general manager Roberto Lastimoso said it was fortunate that the disruption of operations did not occur during rush hour.

The LRT Line 1 ferries 30,000 to 35,000 passengers hourly at peak hours compared to 10,000 to 15,000 passengers for Line 2 and 40,000 passengers for the MRT.

2 Americans found guilty of illegal recruitment get life terms

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWO AMERICANS WERE SENtenced to life imprisonment by a Pasay City court after they were found guilty of large-scale illegal recruitment yesterday.

Judge Wilhemina Jorge-Wagan of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 111 meted out the punishment to Charles "Glenn" Craven and Bill Mosier who were also convicted for 11 counts of estafa. In her 11-page decision, Wagan specifically pointed to Craven whom she said deceived the 11 complainants when he promised them work overseas.

"His assurances made the complainants exhaust their resources in paying the processing fee and commitment bond required in exchange for the promised job," the judge said.

Court records showed that in July 2001, 33 victims came forward to charge Craven and Mosier with large scale illegal recruitment and estafa.

The complainants said they were enticed to apply for an overseas job through Craven's firm, Foreign Investors' Consultancy and Management Inc., located at the Traders Hotel in Pasay City.

The recruitment agency promised them a six-month job contract in the US as nurses, physical therapists, teachers, information technologists and pharmacists.

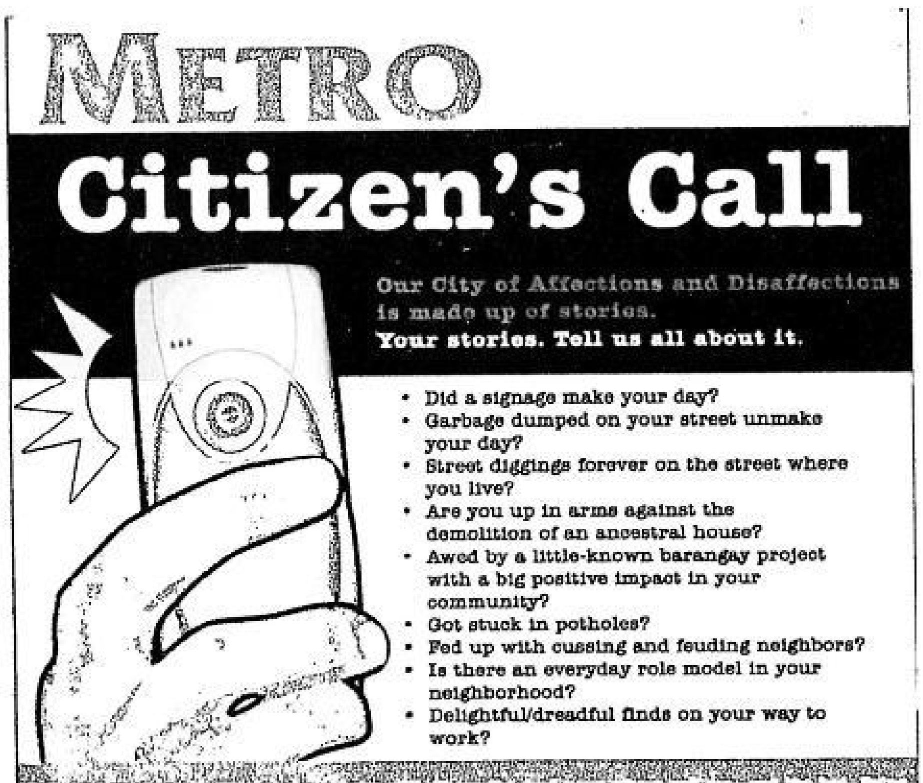
But before an applicant's papers could be processed, Craven allegedly demanded a processing fee of $100 and a commitment bond of $500.

The applicants waited for several months, only to find out that the accused were not licensed recruiters.

After several years, some of the complainants lost interest in pursuing the case against the two Americans.

Apart from the prison term, Wagan also ordered Craven and his partner to pay a fine of P100,000.

Craven was likewise required to pay P27,000 each to Lilia Velasquez, Glo Kristine Bantigue, Ermina Ang, Cecilia Sanchez, Louella Aniceto, Rechel Buan, Ma. Gemma Imperial, Racquel Garcia, Laila Paleracio, Remus Arbis and Emerito Gonzales.



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INQUIRER

‘Toxic residues safe after spill’

By Kristine L. Alave

PEOPLE LIVING NEAR THE SPIKE JUNK Shop in Barangay Caniogan, Pasig City have nothing to fear from the toxic residues of Monday's chlorine spill as the toxicity level tested well below the regulatory benchmark, the head of the city's environment and natural resources office said yesterday.

Raquel Naciongayo, Pasig City environment chief, declared the neighborhood safe after the special rescue unit tested the chlorine residue on the ground on Monday afternoon to determine if there was a need to evacuate residents near the junk shop.

City fire, police and environment officials rushed to the junk shop at 8 Mercedes Ave. after a gas tank containing chlorine leaked and caused an explosion. Twenty-seven persons were later treated at the hospital for dizziness, nausea and difficulty in breathing.

"Chlorine level in the ground is 0.2 ppm (parts per million), which is within the standard as measured by special rescue unit of 30 ppm. The junk shop operation, however, will be suspended because of the lack of environmental safeguards and negligence," Naciongayo said.

‘OPLAN ALAGA’ FOR INQUIRER NEWSBOYS
The INQUIRER recently held the first of seven medical missions for its 150 newsboy partners from Nagtahan, Manila. The INQUIRER's advocacy partners are United Laboratories (Unilab) which donated medicines worth P150,000 and doctors who offered their services for free. From top (left to right) Bong Viray, INQUIRER business development officer, Doctors Tristan Lingat, Pinky Genuino, Manuel Medina, Mia Medina, Alex Floro, Mark Manansala and Kiko Gopez, INQUIRER BDO. Front (from left): Dennis Leung, INQUIRER product manager, Jess Canono, INQUIRER finance controller, Edwin Sacramed, INQUIRER area manager and Mike Olarte, IPI coordinator and Unilab representatives.

DID YOU KNOW

THERE are more women than men in Metro Manila, according to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. For every 100 females in the region, there are only 97 males. In 1995, the ratio was 95 men to 100 women. Metro Manila has a total population of 9.93 million persons, as of 2000. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

METROBRIEFS

Trike drivers on strike

HUNDREDS of tricycle drivers held a rally yesterday, disrupting traffic on Bonifacio Drive in Port Area, Manila, in front of the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit. The demonstrators, members of different tricycle drivers and operators' groups in the city, claimed that some traffic policemen were extorting money from them weekly. The ralliers later agreed to end their protest following a dialogue with Senior Supt. Elmer Jamias, MPD-TEU chief, who agreed to look into their allegations.

Tina G. Santos

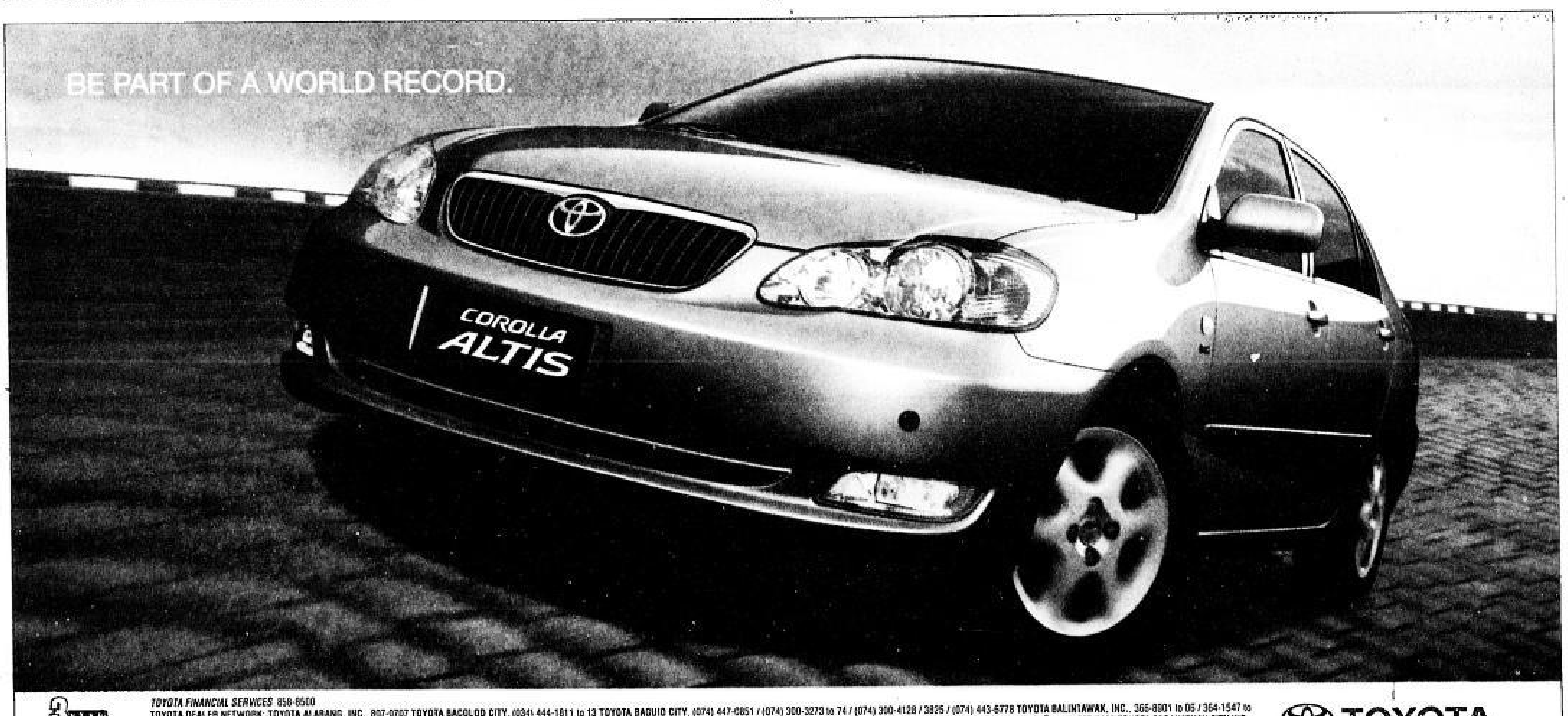
Lawyer airs side

THE FORMER lawyer of Carol Castañeda, the estranged live-in partner of former Congressman Mark Jimenez, yesterday denied that she abandoned her client in the middle of her legal battles. Lorna Kapunan told the INQUIRER that the "statement of Frank Chavez that I abandoned Carol was reckless and irresponsible." Chavez is Jimenez's counsel. Kapunan, who let go of Castañeda's case during last week's hearing at a Taguig City court, explained that there was no animosity between her and her former client who is now under the care of her family and stepchildren. She added that she withdrew as Castañeda's attorney as her client's children are now managing her legal affairs, noting that the decision was reached amicably.

Kristine L. Alave

Waterless Wednesday

SOME areas of Manila will have no water for 16 hours starting today, from 11 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday. Areas that will have no water are those bounded by Algeciras, S.H. Loyola, Moret, M.F. Jocson, A.H. Lacson and G. Tuazon streets in Sampaloc, Manila, including Barangays 422, 423, 421, 427, 460, 457, 459, 434, 401, 402 and 415. Areas that will have no pressure to no water, on the other hand, are those bounded by R. Magsaysay, Paltok, Lardizabal and M. Francisco streets in Sampaloc, Manila, including Barangays 424, 420, 452, 454, 456, 419, 417, 433, 408, 407, 398 and 459.



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Thaksin won't return to Thailand to face charges

THAKSIN AFP

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S DEposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra won't return to the country to face corruption charges this week as ordered by police because he fears for his safety, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Prosecutors said they'll seek Thaksin's extradition if he fails to meet a Friday deadline set by police to face charges that he concealed his ownership of millions of dollars worth of shares from the Thai stock exchange.

"He will not return to answer the charges because of safety concerns and other reasons," Noppadol Pattama, Thaksin's lawyer and de facto spokesperson in Thailand, told the Associated Press.

If Thaksin fails to show up, Thailand will seek to extradite him, said Sunai Manomaiudom, director-general of the Department of Special Investigation.

Thaksin and his wife, Pojamarn, have been charged with violating regulations requiring disclosure of corporate information to the Stock Exchange of Thailand. *AP*

Israel to free 250 prisoners

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT—ISraeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Monday he was ready to free about 250 Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture to help President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah faction.

The two leaders held talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, their first meeting since Islamist Hamas militants seized the Gaza Strip nearly two weeks ago and left Abbas and his secular forces holding the larger West Bank.

Olmert told a joint news conference with Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian leaders he would work with "moderates" like Abbas against "terrorists"—a clear reference to Hamas militants—to secure peace in the Middle East.

"I look to Prime Minister Olmert to start serious political negotiations, according to an agreed timeframe, with the aim of setting up an independent Palestinian state. My hand is stretched out to the Israeli people," said Abbas.

Olmert said he was willing to resume a US-sponsored program of two-weekly talks to push forward with efforts to found a Palestinian state, despite Hamas' control of Gaza.

"I'm optimistic that, especially in these turbulent days, an opportunity has been created to seriously move forward with the regional peace process. I don't plan to let this opportunity slip away," said Olmert.

"As a gesture of goodwill toward the Palestinians, I today announced my intention to release (about) 250 prisoners who are members of Fatah who do not have blood on their hands, with their commitment not to involve themselves again in terror." Olmert said Israel would make good on pledges, issued after Abbas ditched Hamas, to end economic sanctions and hand over hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian tax revenues as well as to ease travel restrictions in the occupied West Bank.

Abbas accused Hamas on Monday of staging a "bloody coup" in Gaza that had deeply wounded the Palestinian people.

Hamas has accused Abbas of a "coup" by dismissing the Hamas-led Palestinian government that held power before the Gaza takeover and of giving in to "Zionist blackmail." The Arab leaders at the meeting asked Olmert in an open session to take steps to make life easier for Palestinians and also to start political negotiations on a final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Abbas' short-term demands included an end to all work on Jewish settlements in Palestinian territory and on the wall or fence that Israel is building through the West Bank.

Israel should also release prisoners, remove checkpoints and transfer frozen tax revenues to the Palestinians, he said.

Hamas, excluded from the meeting because the participants recognize only Abbas, said the leaders were chasing a mirage.

"(The summit) did not give our people anything new except some talk about some money, which was stolen from us," said Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri.

Earlier on Monday, Hamas militants in Gaza posted an audio tape of a captive Israeli soldier on the Internet. Sergeant Gilad Shalit was heard asking for medical treatment and urging Israel to free Palestinian prisoners.

A spokesperson for the Hamas militants said it was up to Israel to make a deal to free Shalit, a 20-year-old conscript. *Reuters*

Baghdad hotel bombed

BAGHDAD—A STEALTHY SUICIDE BOMBER slipped into a busy Baghdad hotel Monday and blew himself up in the midst of a gathering of US-allied tribal sheiks, killing at least four, police said, in a blow to efforts to forge a front against the extremists of al-Qaida in Iraq.

The noontime explosion, devastating the ground-floor lobby of the high-rise Mansour Hotel, also killed at least nine other people and wounded 27, police said. Iraq's prime minister quickly vowed renewed support to Anbar province's tribal leaders.

"We are sure that this crime will not weaken the will of Anbar sheiks," Nouri al-Maliki said in a statement.

The stunning terror strike in the heart of Baghdad, by a killer penetrating layers of security, was one of a wave of suicide and other bombings Monday that killed at least 46 people across Iraq.

The bombing at the Mansour Hotel, on the west bank of the Tigris River in central Baghdad, struck as the lobby bustled with members of news media organizations headquartered at the hotel and other guests, witnesses said.

Among them were a group of sheiks associated with the Anbar Salvation Council, an alliance of Sunni Muslim tribes that have turned against the al-Qaida in Iraq extremists in a bid to drive them from the western province of Anbar.

Also entering the lobby was a man who—security officials later determined—was wearing traditional Arab garb, complete with headdress like the sheiks'. He also was wearing a belt of explosives, packed with nails and metal pellets, said these officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. He approached the sheiks and detonated his bomb.

A police officer based at the hotel identified four tribal leaders killed as former Anbar governor Fassal al-Guood, sheik of the Albu Nimr tribe and a Mansour Hotel resident; Sheik Abdul-Azizi al-Fahdawi of the Fahad tribe; and Sheik Tariq Saleh al-Assafi and Col. Fadil al-Nimrawi, both of the Albu Nimr tribe. Three of al-Guood's guards also were killed, the police officer said.

Another police official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said six of the assembled sheiks were killed.

Gen. Aziz al-Yassiri, a Defense Ministry adviser, also died in the hotel attack, a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bird flu kills birds in Germany

HAMBURG—Six dead wild birds have tested positive in Germany for a lethal strain of bird flu, but authorities said on Monday they did not expect the disease to spread outside the southern region where it was discovered over the weekend. On Sunday, three wild birds found dead in Nuremberg in the southern state of Bavaria tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of the disease. The number of cases has since risen to six, with five swans and one goose infected, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, a veterinary institution, said. Authorities continued to investigate the outbreak, the first in Germany this year, which was discovered as part of a national testing program for dead birds. *Reuters*

7 dead from Russian mine blast

MOSCOW—An explosion in a coal mine in Russia's Arctic killed seven people and left three missing, the Emergency Situations Ministry said Tuesday. The blast hit the Komsomolskaya mine in Vorkuta, about 2,000 km northeast of Moscow, on Monday evening. There were 277 people in the mine at the time, the ministry said in a statement. Most were able to reach the surface on their own, but four were hospitalized with injuries of unspecified severity, the statement said. The ministry said the explosion apparently was due to methane, but it was not clear what ignited the gas. *AP*

Egypt jails engineer for spying

CAIRO—Egypt's state security court sentenced an atomic engineer to 25 years in jail Monday for betraying nuclear secrets to Israel's Mossad spy agency, in the second such case this year. Mohammed Sayyed Saber, 35, who was arrested at the beginning of the year, had pleaded not guilty to the charges but was given the stiffest sentence possible under Egyptian law, amounting to a life term. Wearing white and shackled to a guard in a cage inside the courtroom, Sabar was visibly stunned as the verdict was announced. He said nothing, but his wife and mother broke down outside the court as he was led away. During his trial, he insisted that any information he had divulged was already in the public domain and had been handed over with the blessing of the authorities. *AFP*

Heat wave kills 3 in Greece

ATHENS—A heat wave pushed temperatures up to 42 degrees Celsius in parts of Greece on Monday, contributing to the deaths of three elderly people and causing record electricity consumption and limited blackouts, authorities said. Temperatures reached 46 degrees Celsius Sunday and were expected to remain high for a second week, reaching 43 degrees Celsius in Athens. The Health Ministry said three pensioners, aged 76, 84 and 103 died on Monday of medical conditions aggravated by heat stroke in central and southern Greece. *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Zoellick is new World Bank president

ZOELLICK AFP

WASHINGTON—THE WORLD BANK ON MONDAY approved Robert Zoellick as its next president as the 185-country development lender moved to distance itself from a scandal that cost it credibility around the world.

Zoellick, 53, who is a vice chair at investment bank Goldman Sachs, is to take office Sunday. A well-known consensus builder, he faces the task of rebuilding trust in the development lender that cracked under current president Paul Wolfowitz.

Wolfowitz was forced to resign following a troubled two-year tenure after the bank found he had violated rules in arranging a lavish pay-and-promotion package for his female companion, a bank employee. He steps down Saturday.

Zoellick, a former deputy secretary of state and US trade representative in the administration of US President George W. Bush, was nominated by Bush on May 30 to succeed Wolfowitz, an ex-US deputy defense secretary and an architect of the Iraq war.

"Once I start at the World Bank, I will be eager to meet the people who drive the agenda of overcoming poverty in all regions, with particular attention to Africa, advancing social and economic development, investing in growth, and encouraging hope, opportunity, and dignity," Zoellick said in a statement.

Zoellick was unanimously approved for a five-year term as the 11th president of the bank, the 24-member executive board said in a statement.

Under an unwritten agreement, the United States chooses the head of the World Bank and European countries select the leader of its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund.

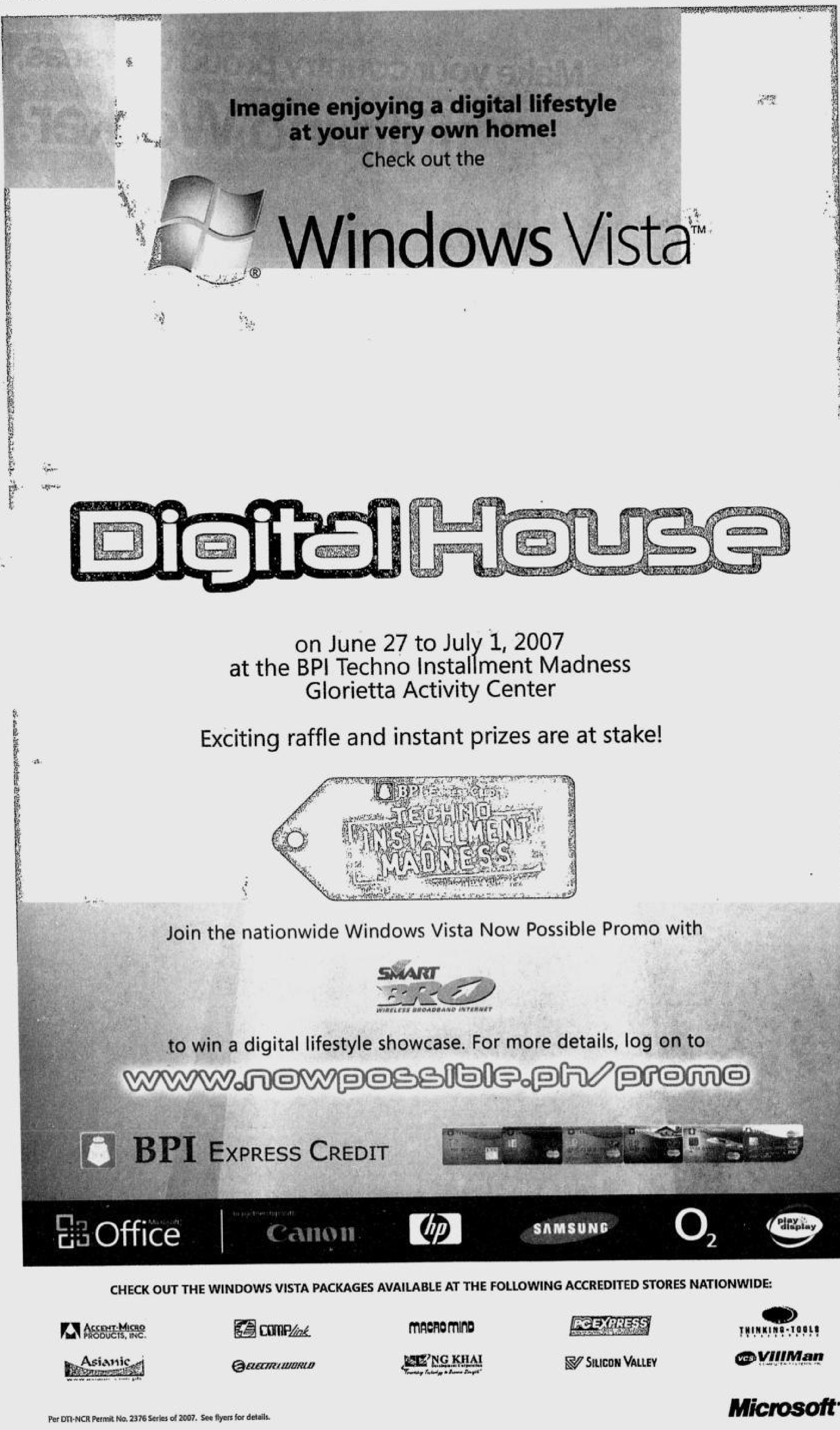
Bush welcomed the announcement.

"Bob Zoellick is a dynamic leader who is deeply committed to the mission of the World Bank in helping struggling nations defeat poverty, grow their economies, strengthen transparency and accountability in governance, and offer their people the prospect of a better life," Bush said in a statement.

The president of the World Bank serves a renewable five-year term.

The incoming president has acknowledged the daunting challenges of his appointment.

The lengthy scandal that led to the resignation of Wolfowitz had divided the staff and cast a cloud over the credibility of the development lender. *AFP*



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Microsoft

PARIS Hilton walks out of the Angeles County Sheriff Department's Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood, California, with her lawyer, Richard Hutton (right), on June 26. AP

Paris Hilton leaves jail

LOS ANGELES—HOTEL HEIRESS PARIS Hilton, who commanded as much attention behind bars as on the Hollywood party scene, regained her freedom on Tuesday after serving three weeks in jail for violating probation in a drunk-driving case.

The incarceration of the 26-year-old multimillionaire, who lampooned her own persona as a clueless child of privilege on the reality TV show "The Simple Life," ignited a worldwide media frenzy and debate about celebrity justice.

The saga hit a crescendo when Hilton was placed briefly under house arrest after just three days in jail, sparking an uproar over what many saw as preferential treatment. Even so, a Los Angeles Times analysis found her sentence far exceeded those served by most inmates for similar offenses.

In the end, Hilton served 22 days in detention, counting her day-long home confinement. The original 45-day term set by the judge was effectively cut in half under a standard credit applied for good behavior.

Hilton emerged from the Century Regional Detention Facility in suburban Lynwood at about 12:15 a.m. greeted by throngs of photographers and camera crews.

Dressed casually in dark slacks and a short-sleeved top, Hilton made no statement but had a broad smile as she walked down a paparazzi-lined path to a sports utility vehicle where she was embraced by her mother, Kathy.

The Hiltons left quickly, headed for the family home in the exclusive enclave of Bel-Air, with several vehicles full of photographers tailing them all the way.

Hilton was scheduled to give her first post-jail television interview on Wednesday on CNN's "Larry King Live" show, after ABC and NBC last week dropped competing offers to grant her a major broadcast network exclusive.

The case also led to a rare public showdown between two of Los Angeles' top law enforcement officers—City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, who prosecuted Hilton, and Sheriff Lee Baca, who oversees the county jail system and moved to "reassign" Hilton to house arrest. *Reuters*

22 feared killed in Cambodia crash

KAMPOT, CAMBODIA—MORE THAN 1,000 rescuers on Tuesday scoured dense forests in southern Cambodia for a chartered tourist plane believed to have crashed the day before, but heavy rains hindered the search.

All 22 people on the aircraft—13 South Koreans, three Czechs, a Russian pilot and five local crew—traveling from the Angkor temple town of Siem Reap to the seaside resort of Sihanoukville were feared dead, officials said.

"I hope there are some survivors, but nobody is sure," said South Korean Ambassador Shin Hyun-suk, before joining other Korean diplomats and Cambodian officials at a meeting called to map out how best to reach the crash site.

"The rain is affecting the search," he said.

The Russian-made AN-24, which disappeared from radar about 40 minutes after leaving Siem Reap early Monday, is thought to have crashed in a mountainous area in Kampot province about 50 km from its destination. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE
Tigresses gain first finals slot /A28

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Top seeds get acts going at Wimbledon/A30

Pals eye 3-1 edge; Beermen seek tie

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text
7:20 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

DERRICK PUMAREN AND TIM Cone share something in common—2-1 leads over separate foes in the ongoing Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup semifinals.

And one other dubious record they obviously like to forget—both were the last to lose 2-1 leads in a best-of-seven series in the league.

Pumaren and Cone try to redeem themselves this time when Talk 'N Text and Alaska gun for 3-1 leads—and move within a win of a title showdown—at the resumption today of the Final Four at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Aces will try to bounce back from a 91-81 beating when they tangle with the San Miguel Beermen in the 7:20 p.m. contest, while the Phone Pals shoot for a third straight win against Red Bull earlier at 4:35.

Pumaren had a similar 2-0 lead in the Philippine Cup semifinals this season, but eventual champion Barangay Ginebra won three straight games and eliminated the rock-solid Phone Pals.

Cone, on the other hand, had a 2-1 and 3-1 advantage over Purefoods in the same tournament, but the Tender Juicy Giants went on to advance against the Gin Kings in the title series after winning the last three games of their playoff.

Defending champion Red Bull has played below par in the last six quarters of their series, dropping Game 2 after a lackluster second half and trailing by as many as 20 points in the third game on Sunday.

That is a complete reversal of form for Red Bull, which played with so much class and control in the series opener that it looked like the rest of the series would be an uphill climb for the Phone Pals.

"There's still no cause for celebration," Pumaren said Sunday night. "They (Bulls) remain a tough team and they are capable of bouncing back."

Cone also has repeatedly harped that San Miguel won't give up just like that even after the Aces had won the first two games.

"We have to come out with the same attitude that we've shown in the first two games and avoid giving San Miguel the chance to build up steam," he said. "We have so much respect for that organization."

No matter what respect the Aces showed in Game 3, the Beermen managed to prevail and now has the momentum going for the equalizer.

"At least we got one," said San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen, who has woven his magic on this team which started in the tournament with a franchise-worst 0-6 slate.

Galen Young will again lead the Beermen, while Rosell Ellis will spearhead the Aces, who have not been in a title series in five years after dominating the 1990s with 10 championships.

Musong R. Castillo

Pacman gets ESPN nomination

MANNY PACQUIAO WAS NOMINATED BY sports network giant ESPN for Best Fighter in its annual ESPY awards.

The Filipino ring icons earned the nod of the cable TV and Internet giant after victories over Erik Morales late last year and Jorge Solis early this year.

Crowding him for the award are fellow boxers Miguel Cotto, the WBA welterweight champion, and Floyd Mayweather, who defeated Oscar De La Hoya in a blockbuster match this year.

Also nominated were universal fighting championship stars Randy Couture and Quinton Jackson.

Golfer Tiger Woods, tennis star Roger Federer and basketball hotshot LeBron James lead the Male Athlete of the Year award while golfer Lorena Ochoa topbills the Female Athlete of the Year award.

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This year's theme features landmarks such as lighthouses, bridges, monuments, parks, town halls and other historic places that have existed for over 50 years.
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Submission deadline: July 26 - Bulk Plants & Aug.2 - Project Secretariat
PETRON Fuel Success

Perfect 10 on imperfect scoreboard

By Jasmine W. Payo

CONFUSION INITIALLY MARKED THE defining moment of her athletic career.

Nadia Comaneci, the first gymnast to earn a perfect 10 in the Olympics, couldn't understand why a "1.00" flashed in the scoreboard after her routine in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

"When they put up 1.00, which is not a very good score in gymnastics, I remember the moment. I was confused," recalled Comaneci. "I remember I asked my teammates why I got that score. Somebody mentioned that it's not a 1, but it's a 10. They just couldn't put it up on the scoreboard because there's no space."

COMANECI

Comaneci, who still looks stunning at 45, got the full explanation just two years ago during an awards event where she met the president of the scoreboard manufacturer of the 1976 Olympics.

"He told me that when he was creating the scoreboard, he asked the international gymnastics federation if it's possible for somebody to score a perfect 10," said Comaneci.

"Since they're creating the scoreboard, they needed to know how many numbers were needed. And the gymnastics federation said that nobody is going to score a perfect 10. So when they created a scoreboard, the highest score was 9.95. So when the 10 was to be put up on the scoreboard, they couldn't do it."

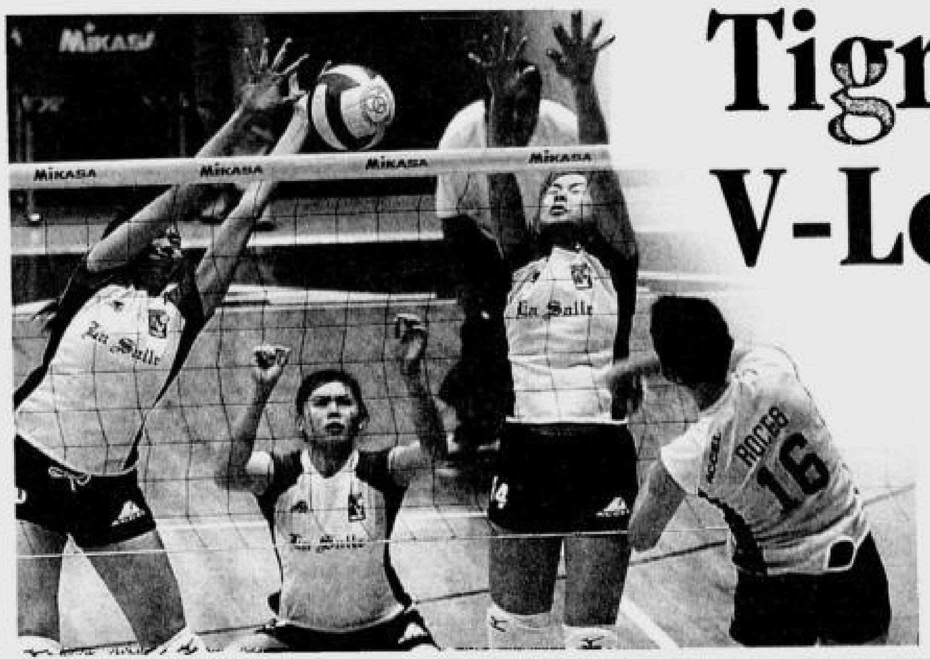
The memory remained fresh to the Romanian gymnast, who is in the Philippines for the first time to give a motivational talk--together with legendary Filipino bowler Paeng Nepomuceno--before employees of P&G Philippines.

Comaneci sees no special formula for a successful career highlighted by seven perfect 10s during her 1976 five-medal Olympic romp.

"I don't think it's a secret," she said. "The most important thing is to love what you do. I know kids today have big goals. But I think it's important to try to be better everyday and remember all the time why you're doing this. And of course, work hard."

Nepomuceno, who joined Comaneci in yesterday's press conference at the Palms Country Club in Alabang, shared a similar advice to Filipino athletes.

"Keep on trying, never give up," the six-time world bowling champion said. "Obstacles come your way, so work hard. Believe in yourself and be disciplined. Never be afraid of changes and master the fundamentals."



LA SALLE's Michelle Datuin (left) and Manilla Santos foil a spike by UST's Suzane Roces in their game yesterday. With them is La Salle's Sanorseang Areerat. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tigresses enter V-League finals

SSC, La Salle alive

By Romina S. Austria

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS NEEDED TO accomplish two things to make the finals—beat La Salle and not allow the Lady Archers to score more than 53 points.

The Tigresses did both yesterday, downing the defending champion Lady Archers, 25-14, 25-21, 25-17, and limiting their total score to just 52 points at The Arena in San Juan City.

UST thus clinched the first finals ticket of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament by virtue of a better quotient than San Sebastian College which stopped Lyceum in the first match, 26-24, 25-16, 25-23.

UST and SSC ended the carry-over semifinal round with 8-3 slates but the Tigresses registered a higher won-lost points ratio, 1.146 to the Lady Stags' 1.144.

Lyceum bowed out of the finals race after a 5-0 start, winning just one of its four semis matches for an overall 7-4 card.

San Sebastian and La Salle will dispute the second finals berth tomorrow at 5 p.m. The loser plays Lyceum for third place.

It will be La Salle's second knock-out game after beating Adamson on June 14 for the fifth and last semis seat, 19-25, 18-25, 25-22, 26-24, 15-6.

La Salle finished the semis at 6-5 but edged Lyceum for the playoff slot three victories out of four semis games, an incentive given to inspire the lower-ranked squads at the end of the eliminations to still aspire for a title slot.

UST beat La Salle for the title in the inaugural season but bowed to the Lady Archers in the first and second conferences of 2005. La Salle won its third straight V-League crown last year over San Sebastian.

Ma. Angeli Tabaquero, Mary Jean Balse and 2006 UAAP Most Valuable Player Venus Bernal, all National players, lead UST's attack with a combined output of 44 points.

Only guest Thai player Sanorseang Areerat scored in double figures for La Salle, making 10.

The best-of-three championship begins Sunday, July 1.

Game Tomorrow
(The Arena)
5 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian

Stags seek lead vs Bombers

SAN SEBASTIAN attempts to make it two in a row when it takes on opening-day loser Jose Rizal even as St. Benilde debuts against Mapua today at the resumption of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Arena in San Juan.

Fresh from a 59-56 victory Saturday, the Stags hope to storm to the solo lead in the 4 p.m. game against the Heavy Bombers, who are trying to recover from a 91-69 whipping from the defending champion San Beda Lions.

The Blazers get to show what they can do when they collide against the Cardinals in the opening game at 2 p.m.

Mapua absorbed a close 84-80 loss from Letran also Saturday.

Now handled by Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent, San Sebastian prevailed over Perpetual by unleashing the full might of its tall lineup made up of 6-foot-9 Francis de Leon, 6-5 Dave Jay Najorda and 6-4 Gilbert Bulawan and Omar Moses Ampatuan.

Cohesion and speed, however, will be the main weapon of Jose Rizal, which is raring to bounce back after getting shellshocked by tournament favorite Lions.

Three-year veteran James Sena (6-4) and sophomores Alvin Se (6-4), Jayson Nocom (6-4) and Jerome Ramos (6-5) are expected to lead the host Bombers, whose last title came 35 years ago.

"We have to catch up," said JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia. "But the season is still long. That loss against San Beda is just one game."

Despite its edge in height, St. Benilde has a lot to prove this season, especially after missing the Final Four the past four years.

The 2000 champion Blazers finished dead-last last year, losing 10 straight games along the way to wind up with a 3-11 record.

Christian Cabatu (6-5) will spearhead the Blazers.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Smart/Petron RP jins to train, vie in Korea

THE SMART/PETRON NATIONAL taekwondo team has stepped up its preparation for three big international events by undergoing exclusive training in Korean schools and participating in the Chuncheon Open championships from June 28 to July 14.

"We're dead set in making a good impression in the Olympic qualifying in London, the Asian selection in Vietnam and the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado. "Our Korean training is going to be a big help."

Twenty-two athletes will train in the best Korean schools and gymnasiums such as the Korea National Sports University and Pung Saeng School to develop strong spirit and sharpen their skills, and at the same time, vie in the Chuncheon Open.

"This is a timely move (by PTA)," said delegation head Stephen Fernandez and coaches Roberto Cruz and Raul Samson of the training and participation in the Chuncheon joust.

The athletes are:

Men—John Paul Lizardo, Jeffrey Figueroa, Tshomlee Go, Manuel Rivero, Jose Carlos Padilla V, Ernesto Juan Mendoza III, Alexander Briones, Michael Alejandrino, Raffy de Jesus, Billy Joel Corral and Michael Angelo Realista.

Women—Kathleen Eunice Alora, Loraine Lorelie Catalan, Sabrina Jo Simbulan, Kirstie Elaine Alora, Richelle Dinolan, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Ma. Criselda Reyes, Veronica Domingo, Gerrielyn Aranzanso, Esther Marie Singson and Katherine Ann Bunyi.

The Chuncheon competition will serve as a tuneup for the Filipinos in their bid for Olympic slots and medals in the Thailand SEAG.

Smart, Petron, Philippine Sports Commission and Accel are backing the taekwondo team's trip.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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GERODIAS SUCHIANCO ESTRELLA
LAW FIRM
Counsel for Terry S.A. Incorporated
Suite 2404 Discovery Center, 25 ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605 Philippines
Trunk (632) 633-9757 to 58 / 638-9345 to 46
Fax (632) 637-2887 www.GSElawfirm.com

(PDI–June 27, 2007)

Take 3: PBA, Rudy Salud, an agri activist

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

HE MUST'VE HEARD TAUNTS OF "CLEVEland, Cleveland" after the fancied San Miguel Beer team sputtered and fell down 0-2 in the PBA Fiesta Conference semifinal series.

There were omens of a sickening 4-0 sweep and PBA Commissioner Noli Eala had to cry, quick, for a soothing drink.

Oh, what a relief it was after the Beermen struck back to ambush the tormenting Alaska Aces on Sunday and save themselves from falling into a dark 0-3 hole in the best-of-7 tussle.

Nothing could be more refreshing.

San Miguel Beer has not only escaped the appalling Cleveland tag earned by the fancied Cavaliers after they got broomed out clean by the San Antonio Spurs in the last NBA Finals.

* * *

Now fans have again come running to the PBA gates, yelling for more surprises.

Not that they've asked for it, but what could be sweeter for PBA fathers than the emergence of a young one as a full-fledged star after Macmac Cardona pushed Talk 'N Text ahead 2-1 in its own race to the Finals with back-to-back brilliance against Red Bull.

Just when fans feared the PBA has been scraped clean of brilliant performers who are now with the RP National team, Cardona of Mandaluyong suddenly became talk of the amazed basketball town.

For proof, Chicago-based Pinoy sportsman Rolando Hiso, a former national cyclist, delayed his departure for Mindanao where he's to scout for worthy boxers who will be trained and promoted in the United States.

Just like most of those who had to wonder what has been left of the PBA roster of stars, Hiso now also wanted to have a hefty drink of that joyful kind Commissioner Eala has been savoring.

* * *

Yes, even Barangay Ginebra fanatics, who must've vowed to boycott the series after their team was thwarted by San Miguel Beer in a thrilling, thirsting yours-or-mine quarterfinal contest, should be reporting early at the gates to root for the Beermen.

Dr. Alan Mendoza, despite his busy schedule in Kentucky, requested for extra tickets to give his balikbayan kids a ringside view of how the PBA could be a lot more thrilling than the NBA.

Well, this is only the semifinal phase we are in.

As the league drumbeaters love to put it, if the Final Four is already selling great, can another unforgettable PBA Finals be far behind?

* * *

INTERMISSION: The newsboy did not show up Saturday, but there was lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud who went out of his way to report and comment on the woeful state of Manny Pacquiao's career. In fact, Salud put on his reading glass and read to us—clearly and slowly—over the phone the statement of Ring editor Nigel Collins who somewhat denounced Filipino fans who have started to become critical of Pacquiao. Collins looked at Pacquiao purely as a sports star. Countered Salud: "But we look at Manny with all the values that we want popular Filipinos to live by and become role models for our youth." Touché... From national swimming association president Mark Joseph on agri activist Benjie Angeles, who received a posthumous award from the Neda last Friday: "Benjie was an activist and crusader, he was fearless and stood with me through dark times because we both wanted the same thing: good government. He used to ask me for calendars or annual diaries that I had received for Christmas from companies and stores. I always wondered what he was doing with them. We just put these diaries in a closet somewhere ending up forgotten. I found out he was recycling them as gifts to people he came in contact with daily—a policeman, a teacher, a fiscal, a nurse or doctor. He gave them to public servants. Somehow, he knew that these would help them do their jobs better. Benjie was persistent and good-hearted. He cared. As soon as he would come, he would move on to another cause. He never stopped doing good no matter how impossible or miniscule the task seemed. Where he got the energy, how he never seemed to burn out or become cynical is a mystery, too. I'm sad that he is gone. But he is now where he belongs. That place where justice reigns, where the good receive their reward. Godspeed Benjie."... Your reporter here has just been given orders to take his annual break. Sorry for the noise. Thank you for bearing up. Stay great.

Cubans excel on $350-M sports budget

By June Navarro

CUBA SPENDS APPROXIMATELY $350 million annually for its athletes and this is the reason why it is a world power in sports.

"Sports in Cuba is deeply integrated with the programs of the government," explained Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday. "After investing heavily on its athletes, Cuba's success comes as no surprise for me."

Ramirez arrived the other day from a week-long sojourn in Havana, Cuba as part of the RP delegation composed of government officials from the tourism, arts and sciences, culture and sports sectors.

The PSC top honcho said Cuban sports authorities funnel majority of the $350-million budget to boxing, volleyball, baseball and beach volleyball, where Cubans are famous worldwide.

Cuba is a powerhouse in Olympic boxing while its highly regarded baseball players are the priority picks of American scouts in the US baseball major league.

In contrast, Ramirez said the PSC gets a yearly budget of P500 million, approximately P90 million from the General Appropriations Act and P25 million a month from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

The budget from the GAA is normally spent for the operations of the PSC while the funding from the Pagcor is channeled directly to the National Sports Development Fund.

SPORTSWATCH

PCAP cockfest set today

ANOTHER SPECIAL 4-COCK DERBY WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. and Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines today at the Makati Coliseum featuring more than 60 fights backed by B-Meg Derby and Gran Matador. Meanwhile, Jun Pascual will host a 4-cock derby on July 2, with P400,000 in guaranteed prize at stake for an entry fee of P15,000. The "Salpukan Sa Taglugon" 6-cock derby kicks off on July 23, 25, 28, 30 and Aug. 1. Participants may call 896-3545 and 895-6475 for reservation of cockhouses.

SJC 'Rambulan' stakes P3 million

CLOSE TO P3 MILLION IN GUARANTEED PRIZE AWAITS THE WINNERS IN the upcoming "Rambulan" 6-cock derby on July 10, 12, 14, 17,19, 21 and 24 at San Juan Coliseum. Backed up by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the event is an offshoot of the National "Rambulan" derby last summer which attracted 978 entries. Host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda pegged the entry fee at only P11,000. The SJC's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" series resumes on Friday, June 29 with P100,000 at stake, said host Ed Guevarra. The "PE San Pablo" 5-cock derby takes place July 4. For details, call 7255369 and 09178041691.

Cainta derby draws 248 entries

THE FOURTH BATCH OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE BLOCKBUSTER "ITAKTAK mo" 5-cock derby starts today at the Cainta Fair Center Coliseum starting at 5 p.m. Today's 2-cock elimination round will banner 65 fights, said host Ronnie Lacsina. A total of 248 cockers and breeders have already registered. The championship round fires off on Friday, June 29. Meanwhile, CFCC also presents the "Stag Wars 4-stag derby" on Aug. 27, 29 and 31 with P500,000 up for grabs. Call 6553334, 2402979 or 09189001411.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Save Our Queen (4), Color My World (2), Lady Inday (4), Janelle's Episode (1)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kim Possible/La Signorina (9), Sweet Luvin (7), Manila's Style (1), At All Cost (4), Speed Attraction (6)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Paminsan-minsan (6), Gold Money (10), Goldsphere (2), Sound Value (11), Hok Kee Hok (1)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Macedonian (3), Sexy Eyes (2), Grey Angel (7), Boss UFO Naman (5)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Parrot Moe (9), Sol Invictus (2), West N Wild (3), Easy Rider (1), Words Of Joy (7)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Hazit Coming (7), Zaniga (8), Cristina (1), Joint Account (1)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Carlito's Way (1), Collective Dreams (8), Kawiliwili (7), Fair Urduja (5), Heart Of The Wind (9)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Top Of D'Line (5), Advance Party (9), El Love Senora (10), Maricor's Charm (8), Red Bells (2), Dancing Slew (1)

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.A, NUMBER 13 OF ORDINANCE 7755 (UNDER TRICYCLE TERMINALS) BY APPENDING THEREIN THE ADDITIONAL LOADING AND UNLOADING AREA OF THE TAYABAS TRICYCLE OPERATORS AND DRIVERS ASSOCIATION INC. (TATODA) AND SECTION 2, NUMBER 29 OF ORDINANCE 7871, BY APPENDING THEREIN THE ADDITIONAL ROUTE LINE AND APPENDING THE NUMBER OF UNITS ALLOCATED FROM 40 UNITS TO 120 UNITS.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 2-a number 13 of Ordinance No. 7755 under Tricycle Terminals as amended by Ordinance 7928 by deleting letter b, is hereby amended by appending therein another letter to be known as letter b, to be read as follows:

"Tayabas Tricycle Operator and Drivers Association (TATODA)"

a. Tayabas Street corner Rizal Avenue
b. Yuseco Street corner F. Huertas Street

SEC. 2. Section 2 of Ordinance 7871, number 29 is hereby amended by appending herein the additional Route Line and further amended by appending the R.M.C. allocated from 40 units to 120 units.

Association	Route	R.M.C.
Tayabas Tricycle Operators And Drivers Association, Inc.	Yuseco corner F. Huertas Katamanan St.	120

SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause – This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today,

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, on

APPROVED:

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

RODOLFO F. LAPID
Secretary to the City Council

PRINCIPAL AUTHOR : HON. EDWARD M. TAN
CO-AUTHOR: HON. ERNESTO G. DIONISIO, Majority Floor Leader

ILT: mqm / jhb / rnd / vmf

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the City Council ordered the publication of the above proposed Ordinance during its regular session held on June 14, 2007, pursuant to the provision of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO F. LAPID**
City Government Dept. Head III
(Secretary to the City Council)

(PDI–June 27, 2007)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS AIRCRAFT PARTS AND SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS IN THE OVERHAUL OF HARTZELL PROPELLER ASSEMBLY AND LANDING GEARS OF SUPER KING AIR 350

Ref. No. PB070518-PP0078

1. The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION***, *Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *2007 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* intends to apply the sum of the following:

Schedule 1 : Php2,175,071.00 (Item 1: Php987,153.00 / Item 2: Php931,710.00 / Item 3: Php256,208.00)
Schedule 2 : Php743,964.00 (Item 1: Php15,000.00 / Item 2: Php728,964.00)
Schedule 3 : Php3,945,357.00 (Item 1: Php2,013,618.00 / Item 2: Php1,931,739.00)
Schedule 4 : Php79,360.00
Schedule 5 : Php2,953,750.00
Total : Php9,897,502.00

being the Approved Budgets for the Contract (ABCs) to payments under the contract for ***PR Nos. ATO-07-000042940/42997/45149 (Schedule 1) / ATO-07-000046023/42949 (Schedule 2) / ATO-07-000042928/42919 (Schedule 3) / ATO-07-00042977 (Schedule 4) / ATO-07-00045317 (Schedule 5).*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The ***TRANSCO-HO*** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Supply and Delivery of Various Aircraft Parts and Supply of Labor and Materials in the Overhaul of Hartzell Propeller Assembly and Landing Gears of Super King Air 350. Delivery of the GOODS is ninety (90) calendar days from acknowledgment of approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.*

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **June 27, 2007 to July 24, 2007** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00*. The method of payment will be ***Cash***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***July 10, 2007 / 2:00 P.M.*** *at the address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.*

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 25, 2007 / 10:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

FORM OF SECURITY	AMOUNT
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Schedule 1 : Php 21,750.71 Schedule 2 : Php 7,439.64 Schedule 3 : Php 39,453.57 Schedule 4 : Php 793.60 Schedule 5 : Php 29,537.50 Total : Php 98,975.02
2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Schedule 1 : Php 32,626.07 Schedule 2 : Php 11,159.46 Schedule 3 : Php 59,180.36 Schedule 4 : Php 1,190.40 Schedule 5 : Php 44,306.25 Total : Php 148,462.53
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	Schedule 1 : Php 54,376.78 Schedule 2 : Php 18,599.10 Schedule 3 : Php 98,633.93 Schedule 4 : Php 1,984.00 Schedule 5 : Php 73,843.75 Total : Php 247,437.56
4. Foreign Government Guarantee (100% of ABC)	Schedule 1 : Php2,175,071.00 Schedule 2 : Php 743,964.00 Schedule 3 : Php3,945,357.00 Schedule 4 : Php 79,360.00 Schedule 5 : Php2,953,750.00 Total : Php9,897,502.00

7. Bid opening shall be on **July 25, 2007/10:00 A.M.** at the *Admin Conference Room same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The ***National Transmission Corporation*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Raul Joseph G. Seludo, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812207 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **RAUL JOSEPH G. SELUDO**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – June 27, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Procurement of Service Vehicles

1. The Commission on Audit intends to apply the sum of Seventeen Million One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Nine Pesos (P 17,151,849.00) broken down as follows:

LOT NO.	QUANTITY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SUB-ABC
I	16 units	Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV), 4-cylinder diesel engine; displacement: 2400cc to 2500cc; manual transmission (M/T); rear wheel drive; power steering; dual air conditioning system with independent switch control; car stereo/CD/MP3; brake system - front disc and rear drum; at least R14 tires and mag wheels; company rust-proofing with mudguards; standard tools with early warning device (EWD); AUV cover, seat cover, tint and matting (inclusive of VAT and three (3) years LTO registration)	PhP 13,068,075.43
II	5 units	Car Sedan, 4-cylinder 16 valve gasoline engine; displacement: 1800cc; 4-door; 5 speed manual transmission (M/T); power steering; air conditioning system; car stereo/CD/MP3; power door locks, mirror, windows and remote keyless entry; brake system; Front - disc, Rear - disc or drum; at least R15 tires and mag wheels; company rust-proofing with mudguards, standard tools with early warning device (EWD); car cover, seat cover, tint and matting. (inclusive of VAT and three (3) years LTO registration)	PhP 4,083,773.57
		TOTAL ABC	PhP 17,151,849.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Service Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting June 27, 2007 to July 19, 2007, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand Pesos (P 7,000.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Director Mila R. Penas, Procurement Division, COA Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 9, 2007, 2:00 pm at the BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor, Former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

4. Deadline for the submission of Bids shall be on July 20, 2007, 2:00 pm at BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

5. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Audit reserves the right to reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.**
Assistant Commissioner
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 27, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SUNIL SHIELA ENTERPRISES INC. 9188 Calmon St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Remsha Pritam Parwani	Consultant
RAJINDIR ENTERPRISES, INC. Blk. 5 Lot 26 St. Anne St., Sto. Nino, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Anju Bala	Consultant
CK & PHIL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INC. Suite 11 14/F Malate Crown Plaza, San Andres cor. Adriatico, Malate, Manila	Ming Hei Kalgient Wong	Tour Manager
CK & PHIL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INC. Suite 11 14/F Malate Crown Plaza, San Andres cor. Adriatico, Malate, Manila	Pang Fei So	General Manager for Operation
CK & PHIL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INC. Suite 11 14/F Malate Crown Plaza, San Andres cor. Adriatico, Malate, Manila	Yun Yun So	General Manager
MARCUS EVANS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 4/F Rufino Bldg., 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Wing Man Emily Wong	Sales Manager
MARCUS EVANS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 4/F Rufino Bldg., 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Wai Leng Foo	Sales Executive
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CHUNG OI TRADING, INC. No. 6 Industry Rd., Potrero, Malabon City	Zhirong Yang	Technical Supervisor
PITSTOP MOTORS (PSM), INC. 1197 Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Donald Leonder Pengal	President
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GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hae Sheng Ng	Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 2
SHINNITTETSU PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1505 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St. cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Seiichi Konishi	Fabrication Engineer
SHINNITTETSU PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1505 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St. cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Eisaku Kugimiya	Chief Administrative Manager
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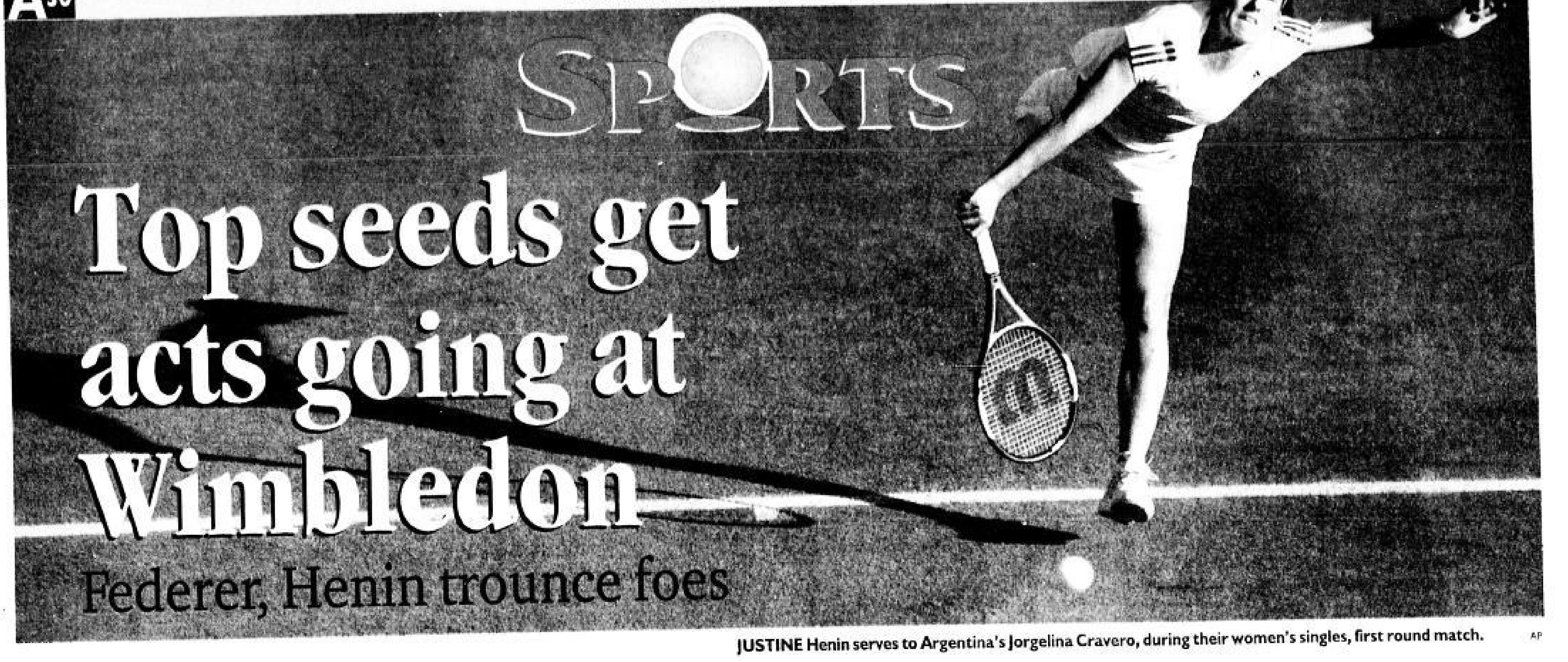
If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-2013 & 303-6828.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–June 27, 2007)



Top seeds get acts going at Wimbledon

Federer, Henin trounce foes

JUSTINE Henin serves to Argentina's Jorgelina Cravero, during their women's singles, first round match. AP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—ROGER Federer came onto Centre Court at Wimbledon dressed like a player from a bygone era. He then played like his usual modern-day great self.

The top-ranked Swiss star began his bid for an Open era record-equaling fifth consecutive Wimbledon title Monday by beating Teimuraz Gabashvili of Russia, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, on a cool and wet opening day at the All England Club.

Other winners included third-seeded Andy Roddick and two-time champion Serena Williams, who said she has been receiving treatment for a previously undisclosed hamstring problem.

It was Federer's 49th consecutive grass-court victory and 29th straight at Wimbledon, a streak dating back to 2003. With six more victories over the next two weeks, he would become the first player to win five straight championships since Bjorn Bjorg in 1976-80.

"It was OK," Federer said. "I was pretty pleased with my performance. It was pretty solid. He played a decent match, so I had to come up with some decent shots once in a while."

The man Federer has beaten in two finals, third-seeded Andy Roddick, also got off to a strong start, beating fellow American Justin Gimelstob, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3), on Court 1. Roddick served 16 aces, broke three times and never lost serve. Gimelstob is 0-6 this year since returning from back surgery.

In women's play, top-seeded Justine Henin beat Argentine qualifier Jorgelina Cravero, 6-3, 6-0, to start her chase for a first Wimbledon title to complete a career Grand Slam. Seventh-seeded Williams, down 5-4 in the first set, won eight straight games to defeat Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain, 6-4, 6-0.

Williams, who was far from her best in the first set, said she has been been bothered by a tight hamstring.

"It's doing OK. It's getting better, slowly but surely," she said. "I'm hoping and praying it will get better in time."

Former Wimbledon champion Martina Hingis overcame a big scare, saving two match points in the second set against 18-year-old British wild card Naomi Cavaday before taking nine straight games to win, 6-7 (1), 7-5, 6-0.

Among the seeded men who advanced were No. 5 Fernando Gonzalez, No. 13 Tommy Haas and No. 17 David Ferrer.

As is so often the case at Wimbledon, the tournament began in wet weather, with play getting under way after a rain delay of about 2 hours, 40 minutes. Play was suspended later in the afternoon because of more rain, and a total of 10 matches were postponed.

In keeping with tradition, Federer was the first player to walk onto Centre Court as defending men's champion. He did it in style, wearing a white customized dinner-style jacket—similar to the cream-colored model he donned last year—with a gold crest and letters RF on the breast pocket and retro long white trousers.

"Matching shoes, matching pants, matching vest and headband," Federer said. "It's a very nice outfit."

Federer took off the jacket and warmed up with a white sweater vest and the long pants before getting straight down to business—firing a service winner down the middle on the first point. He was never troubled by the 86th-ranked Gabashvili, who was making his Wimbledon debut and had won only one previous grass-court match.

Federer needed only 1½ hours to complete the victory, finishing with 33 winners and 13 unforced errors. He broke the Russian four times and saved the only break point against him. Other than Borg, only two other men have won at least five straight Wimbledons—Laurie Doherty (1902-06) and William Renshaw (1881-86).

Federer's mother sat in the Royal Box, while his girlfriend, Mirka Vavrinec, was joined by Italian motorcycling star Valentino Rossi in his supporters section.

Federer came to Wimbledon without any grass-court match practice after losing to Rafael Nadal in the French Open final two weeks ago. He pulled out of his traditional warmup event in Halle, Germany, citing fatigue and soreness. *AP*

WWE superstar Benoit, family found dead

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER CHRIS BENOIT WAS found dead Monday along with his wife and young son at their Atlanta home, the World Wrestling Entertainment said on its web site. Law enforcement officials in Fayette County said Monday the dead included Benoit, his wife, Nancy, and their seven-year old son, Daniel. The Atlanta-Journal Constitution reported that police are investigating the case as a murder-suicide. No details were released but the results of autopsies are expected Tuesday. The 40-year-old Benoit was born in Montreal, Canada, and moved to Calgary in the 1980s where he got his start in professional wrestling. Benoit later wrestled professionally in Japan before joining the WWE in 2000. Benoit was scheduled to appear in a title match, but backed out because of a "family emergency," the WWE announced on Sunday. Benoit went by the ring name the "Canadian Crippler" and his signature moves included a flying headbutt, the triple German suplex and the "Crippler Crossface." *AFP*

BENOIT AFP

12-year-old is youngest US Open qualifier

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA—AT 12 YEARS AND NOT QUITE FIVE MONTHS OLD, American Alexis Thompson on Thursday will become the youngest qualifier ever to compete at the women's US Open. Thompson will join the likes of Annika Sorenstam and world number one Lorena Ochoa at the 2007 Open at Pine Needles Lodge and Country Club, which offers a total purse of $3.1 million. The schoolgirl shot rounds of 72 and 71 in a sectional tournament in Heathrow, Florida, to qualify for the major. "I'm just out here playing golf," she told reporters on Monday. "It's great that I made it and I'm having an awesome experience already so I'm just out here to play golf." Thompson won the right to play the Open at the age of 12 years, four months and one day, beating the previous record set by the now 19-year-old Morgan Pressel by more than six months. Pressel has held the record since 2001. Thompson, who will compete as an amateur, is being accompanied by her parents. *Reuters*

Lakers set to acquire Garnett

LOS ANGELES—OWNERS OF THE LOS Angeles Lakers and Minnesota Timberolves have started talks about a possible four-team blockbuster deal that would send Kevin Garnett to the Lakers to play alongside Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

The newspaper, citing unnamed National Basketball Association sources, said the discussions involve Indiana as well while ESPN added to the mix, saying Boston would obtain Jermaine O'Neal from the Pacers as part of the mega-trade.

Under the plan, Garnett would go to the Lakers while the Pacers would get Lamar Odom and Andrew Bynum from the Lakers with young players and draft picks going to Minnesota.

The Times reported that Lakers owner Jerry Buss and Glen Taylor, owner of the Timberwolves, ended their 20-minute telephone call by saying their top basketball executives should continue the talks.

The deal should make Bryant happy. The Lakers' superstar guard has expressed his unhappiness several times in the past month about the state of the Lakers and his desire to see the club make moves to become competitive.

Obtaining Garnett, who has stayed with Minnesota despite frustrating years and an inability to play beyond the first round of the playoffs.

Garnett, 31, has watched the Timberwolves lose to the Lakers in the 2004 Western Conference finals and failed to qualify for the playoffs since then. They were 32-50 last season.

Garnett can opt out of his contract after next season, so the T-wolves might want to obtain something in exchange for him rather than watch him depart for nothing in return.

He is due to make 22 million dollars next season and 23 million dollars in the 2008-2009 season.

Garnett averaged 22.4 points, 12.8 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 1.7 blocked shots a game last season. *AFP*

Django cops 2nd straight crown in US

FILIPINO POOL MASTER FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante edged defending champion Tony Chohan of the United States, 5-4, in their rematch in the finals to rule the Hard Times Summer Jamboree One Pocket Division crown Monday at the Hard Times Billiards in Sacramento, California.

This was the second straight title for the 44-year-old Bustamante after winning the 9-ball division of the Hard Times Summer Jamboree last week.

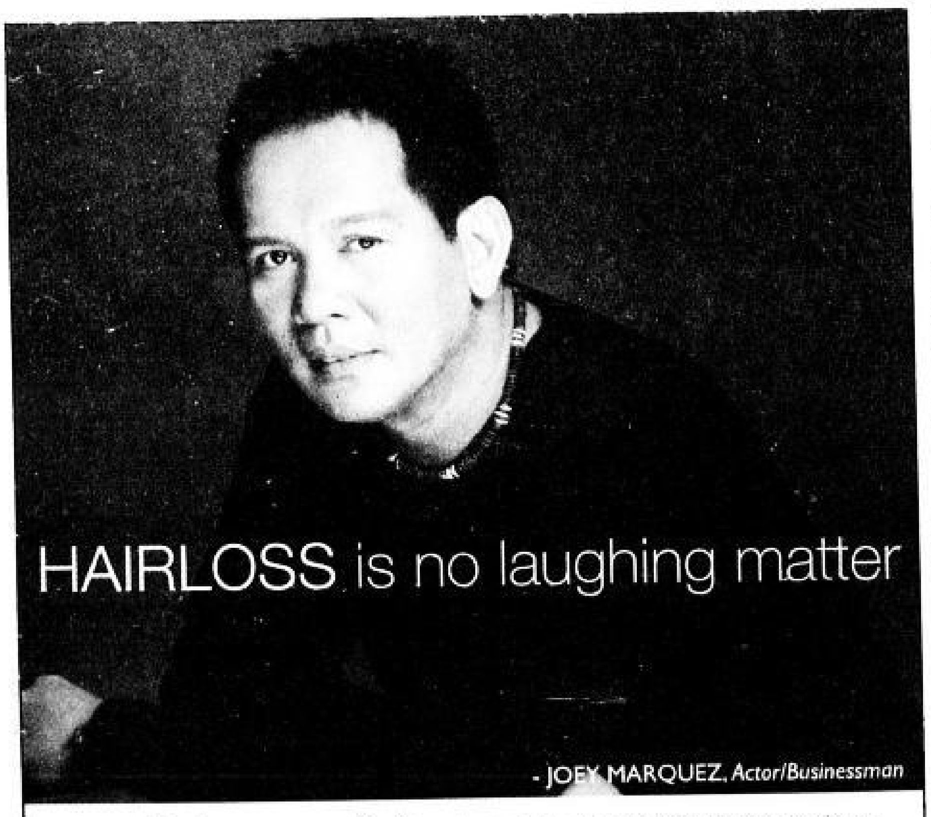
Among Bustamante's victims in the One Pocket were Rafael Martinez, 3-1, Trevor Smith, 3-0, Frank Nordmann, 3-1, Ross Webster, 3-1, David Gross, 3-1, and Chohan, 3-2, for the hot-seat slot.

Bustamante surpassed the record of compatriot Dennis Orcollo, last year's champion in 9-ball pool and runner-up in the One Pocket division.

Bustamante accumulated a total of 14 wins, seven wins coming from the 9-ball event and another seven wins from the One Pocket division.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

NEW CUB: In this undated photo released by WireImage, golfer Tiger Woods (left) holds his newborn daughter Sam Alexis Woods as wife Elin kisses the baby on the head. Sam Alexis, the first child for Woods and his wife, was born June 18. AP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- JOEY MARQUEZ, *Actor/Businessman*

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Young lass bags Thai chess gold

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ROSALES, PANGASINAN—A 7-YEAR-old girl from this agricultural town brought honor to the country by winning a gold medal during a chess competition in Thailand last week.

Samantha Glo Revita quietly slipped back into the country with her teammates on Saturday after the 10-day 8th Asean Age Group Championship.

Samantha won the gold in the Standard Chess, the highlight of the tournament, on June 20. She also bagged the bronze in the Blitz Chess. The Philippine delegation brought home eight gold and three silver medals.

The Thailand tournament was the third Asian tour for Samantha. She joined the 7th Asean Age Group Chess Championship in June last year in Indonesia where she bagged a silver medal and the 2nd Asian Schools Chess Festival in Dec. 2006 where she also won a silver.

The girl's father was saddened by the fact that no official from the national government, even from the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), welcomed them at the airport.

"No, there was nobody to welcome her and the Philippine delegation," said her father Sammy, who accompanied her in the tournament.

He said the team arrived at the airport on Saturday dawn, took a cab to a bus terminal, and returned to this town.

"We tried to scrimp on our budget," said Sammy, an engineer employed by the Rosales Water District.

The NCFP paid for Samantha's air fare and hotel accommodations, but Sammy said he had to spend for his own needs as his daughter's guardian.

He said he had to look for sponsors (the local government gave them P30,000) and seek out relatives so he could accompany Samantha in Thailand.

"We cannot express our happiness enough. We really tried our best for Samantha to win the gold," he added.

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Imports fell 1.8% in April to $4.34B

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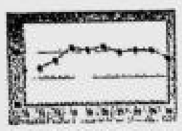
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Electronics shipments down 17.3%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS dropped by 1.8 percent to $4.34 billion April from the same month last year, pulled down by the double-digit decline in demand by electronics firms, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The contraction in April was a turnaround from the 8-percent growth in March.

Electronics imports—made up largely of raw materials assembled in the Philippines to produce consumer electronic products for exports—hit $1.85 billion, or 17.3-percent lower from a year ago. Finished and semi-processed electronics products are also the country's top dollar-earner.

IMPORTS/ B5

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▨ **Pre-need sales** up as of April /B9

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DOE pushes Napocor debt-for-grant swap

By Abigail L. Ho

IN AN EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE the adverse effects of power generation on the environment, the Department of Energy has proposed that $3 billion of National Power Corp.'s loans be converted into grants that can be used in the establishment of renewable energy projects.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that instead of having Napocor repay $3 billion worth of debts falling due over the next three years, creditors could choose to allow the government to use this amount for projects using renewable resources and clean technology.

"In the case of Napocor, (it owes) some $6 billion. There is a way to mobilize that amount. Instead of repaying, we can address that debt overhang by remobilizing that amount for renewable and cleaner sources of energy," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Asia Clean Energy Forum yesterday.

Not only would the country benefit from a cleaner environment and from ample power supply, but the "public access problem" in remote areas would also be addressed, he said.

He explained that it was difficult to tap renewable energy projects for rural communities as these were too costly to implement.

This was because renewable energy projects were site-specific, with most of the appropriate sites located in areas too far-flung to be reached by existing transmission lines, he said.

"So you have to build a transmission line for that, and that costs a lot of money. We've got to think of innovative financing mechanisms that will allow us to fund these things," he said.

Yongping Zhai, principal energy specialist for Southeast Asia at Napocor creditor Asian Development Bank, said a swap arrangement similar to what Lotilla was proposing was already in place in South Africa.

"In South Africa, there is a debt-to-infrastructure. This can be a context we can consider," he said in a separate interview.

For his part, ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda said the multilateral lender, using its Clean Energy Facility, was exploring the possibility of offering a "contingent loan on the difference between the price of the new technology and the conventional technology."

"If the higher returns from the use of the cleaner energy technologies are not realized, the loan or part of the loan gets converted into a grant," he said in a speech. "Through this mechanism, ADB proposes to share the risk for the use of new technologies to encourage greater deployment."

ABACUS
Consolidated Resources & Holdings, Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To all stockholders:

The annual stockholders' meeting of Abacus Consolidated Resources and Holdings, Inc. will be held on July 12, 2007, Thursday, 10:30 am at the Waling-waling Room, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, with the following agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of minutes of previous stockholders' meeting
4. Report to the stockholders
5. Approval of audited financial statements as of December 31, 2006
6. Election of directors
7. Appointment of transfer agent
8. Appointment of external auditors
9. Ratification of acts of directors and officers
10. Other matters
11. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of June 22, 2007 will be entitled to notice and to vote at this meeting.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may send your duly accomplished proxy form to the Corporate Secretary at 28 N. Domingo St., New Manila, Quezon City 1112, no later than July 6, 2007. Validation of proxies will take place on July 10, 2007 at the same address.

Registration for the meeting begins at 9:30 am. To facilitate registration, please bring a valid ID with your photograph and signature.

(Sgd.)JOAQUIN E. SAN DIEGO
Corporate Secretary

Manufacturing output continued to shrink, posted 1.3% decline in April

By Michelle V. Remo

OUTPUT BY MANUFACTURING FIRMS, MEAsured in terms of production volume, continued to fall in April in what an economist said was a result of lower demand both from the local and global markets.

The volume of production index (VoPI) shrank by 1.3 percent in April, although this was slower than the 6.8-percent contraction in March, the National Statistics Office said in its Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (Missi) released yesterday.

The VoPI had been on a decline since the start of the year, by 13.9 percent in February and the by 0.4 percent in January.

The consistent drop in manufacturing output previously raised confusion as the manufacturing sector had been credited as one of the strongest contributors to the country's economic growth in the first quarter.

But the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) had explained that the Missi included only "organized" manufacturing firms in its samples. "Organized" firms are those that are either registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and belonged to the manufacturing industry's association.

On the other hand, the National Accounts, the basis for reporting economic growth, takes a wider sample for computing the performance of the manufacturing sector. The samples it uses also include "unorganized" industry members, or small-scale producers not registered with the SEC.

According to Benjamin Diokno, economics professor at the University of the Philippines, the drop in production by firms covered by the Missi was due to weaker overall demand, both from foreign and domestic clients.

He said the drop in the Missi in April was supported by the drop in imports in the same month. Imports for the month fell 1.8 percent year-on-year to $4.34 billion. *(See story on page B1.)*

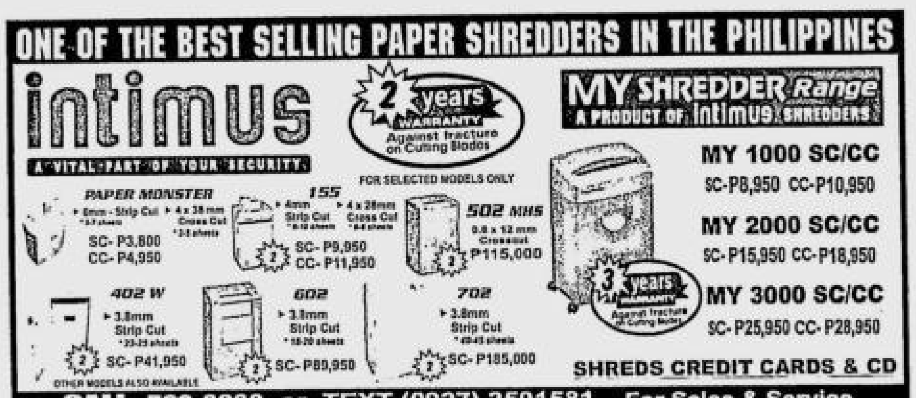
Although the discrepancy between the Missi and the National Accounts was already explained by the NSCB, Diokno expressed doubts on the accuracy of the National Accounts.

The government earlier reported in the National Accounts that the economy grew by 6.9 percent in the first quarter, the fastest in 17 years. The growth was partly anchored on improved production by the manufacturing sector, the report said.

Diokno said he expected a downward revision of the first-quarter economic growth to between 5.7 and 5.9 percent. This range takes into account the weakening performance of the manufacturing sector, he said.

The Missi said that the sub-sectors that contributed to the drop in production volume were: Textiles (-46.2 percent), tobacco (-35.4 percent), footwear and wearing apparel (-22.5 percent), basic metals (-11.1 percent), chemical products (-3.6 percent), electrical machinery (-3.6 percent) and nonelectrical machinery (-27.6 percent).

The drop in production volume, however, was slightly offset by the higher output of the following sub-sectors: Transport equipment (14.6 percent), nonmetallic mineral products (15.6 percent), wood and wood products (50.3 percent), petroleum products (2.6 percent), beverage (5.9 percent), fabricated metal products (14 percent), publishing and printing (17.4 percent), food manufacturing (0.9 percent), paper and paper products (6.7 percent) and furniture and fixtures (2.8 percent).



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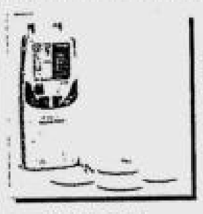

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Professor Danilo A. Antonio, is a member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program. Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.

Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ed.D, is the Bank of America Foundation Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Guevarra Enterprises (Guevent), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (post-mix distributor of Pepsi-Cola). Prof. Ferreria, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt.& Dev't. Foundation, Filipino Car Foundation, and Channel Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and AIM's Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Club Noah Group of Companies operating the world-famous Club Noah-Isabelle in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Seair, an airline serving tourist destinations in Palawan, Surigao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Makati.

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Rate of 3-year T-bonds rises to 6.435%

BANKS YESTERDAY PUSHED THE INTEREST rate on the three-year treasury bonds higher, but the government, faced with a tax collection shortfall, still decided to borrow at the higher cost to raise its financing requirements.

The three-year bonds fetched 6.435 percent, higher by 74 basis points from the 5.695 percent recorded in its previous auction in April. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who also serves as officer in charge of the Bureau of the Treasury, said the higher rate sought by banks was reasonable and tolerable. He noted that the new yield for the three-year bonds was in line with secondary market rates.

"(The new rate) is very much within the market average of 6.4 percent. We (Treasury) are comfortable with the award," Tan said in a press briefing after yesterday's auction.

Analysts said the increase in interest rate was not due to weak demand for government securities as banks remain awash with cash. Volume of bids reached P16.35 billion, more than double the government's debt offering of only P6 billion.

The auction committee of the Treasury accepted P6 billion worth of bids, raising in full the programmed borrowing yesterday.

Tan said there were P37.1 billion worth of retail treasury bonds that were about to mature this week.

He said the Treasury was studying whether or not it would issue new RTBs to raise money and compensate the cash outflow resulting from the payment of the maturing government securities.

In January to May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P285.59 billion in taxes. This represented a P28.62-billion shortfall from the P314.21-billion goal set for the period.

With the BIR being the biggest source of revenue by the national government, the budget deficit hit P41.76 billion in the first five months of the year, breaching the P36.66-billion ceiling set for the period.

The government has set a target of limiting the deficit for the full year to only P63 billion, better than the P64.8 billion recorded last year.

Michelle V. Remo

Audi triumphs at Le Mans

Le Mans, France - 2007 is a banner year for Audi as the German car completely dominates the field for the seventh time in what is known to be the hardest race in the world, the Le Mans 24 Hours.

Audi AG has yet again made an impressive victory in the Le Mans 24-Hour race despite the extremely difficult conditions. Frank Biela (Germany), Emanuele Pirro (Italy) and Marco Werner (Germany) repeated their success like last year, thus giving Audi their seventh victory in the French endurance classic. For the second consecutive time, the Audi R10 TDI claimed victory. The revolutionary diesel sports car from Ingolstadt remains unbeaten.

In the 75th edition of the Le Mans 24 Hours race, Audi again gave an impressive proof of "Vosprung durch Technik". The Audi R10 TDI was the fastest and the most reliable car in the field.

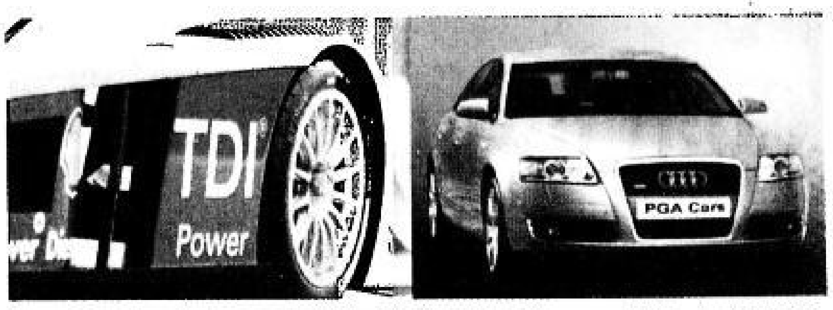
A record number of spectators witnessed one of the most exciting 24-hour races in the history of Le Mans. Changing weather conditions at the beginning claimed the Audi R10 TDI with start number three when Mike Rockenfeller left the rain-soaked track on his third lap and collided backwards into the Armco barriers.

From left to right: Frank Biela (Germany), Emanuele Pirro (Italy) and Marco Werner (Germany) posing with excitement as they bagged the 75th Le Mans 24 Hours title.

After having controlled the race with a considerable margin for more than 16 hours, Dindo Capello's left rear wheel of his Audi R10 TDI loosened on Sunday morning. On the other hand, Le Mans record winner Tom Kristensen and Allan McNish came to a premature end as well.

Thus, during the last five-and-a-half hours, all hopes for Audi were left on the shoulders of Audi R10 TDI with start number one of Frank Biela, Emanuele Pirro and Marco Werner. Conditions were extremely difficult due to pouring rain in the final phases of the race. However, the established Audi drivers mastered and took this kind of matter boldly.

The impressive winning margin of Marco Werner over the second-placed Peugeot was ten laps at the finish line - this made the 7th Le Mans triumph. Now Audi has moved up to the 3rd place in the historic records during the 75th edition of the French endurance classic because only Porsche and Ferrari have won at Le Mans more often than Audi. With this win, a date with history is now just a cinch away for Audi.



With R10 TDI, Audi brings TDI Power to the race track which today can be found in every second Audi road car (seen inset is an A6 TDI, available in the Philippines).

TDI Technology benefits Audi owners

That Audi is the world's first automobile manufacturer to compete for overall victory at the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans with a diesel engine and is, as a result, a step ahead of the competition is almost self-explanatory: Audi is the inventor of the TDI and therefore the trend setter in this area.

At the 1989 Frankfurt Motorshow, Audi presented the world's first diesel engine with direct injection and complete electronic engine management for use in passenger cars – a five-cylinder TDI producing 120 hp and 265 Newton meters torque. It was the birth of the revolutionary TDI technology which helped the diesel to change its image: Slow, loud and uncultivated were superseded by agile, comfortable and extremely economical. The Audi TDI brought the opposites of sporting-dynamic and long-range through low consumption in an emotional way down to a common denominator, without neglecting the diesel's exceptional reputation: its long life.

Audi customers benefit from motorsport

With the V12 TDI for Le Mans, Audi demonstrates impressively just how much potential TDI technology has. The Audi customers will once again benefit from the experience gained in motorsport as they did from the R8 and the quattro models.

Every second Audi is a TDI

Today every second Audi is delivered with a TDI engine – the outlook is bright. Audi has constantly set new technical standards during the development of the TDI engines over the last 16 years. The current highlight is the Audi V8 4.2 TDI quattro with 326 hp and 650 Newton meters torque – one of the most powerful compression ignition engines found in a production limousine – an all this whilst complying with EU 4 emission limits and with an average fuel consumption of 9.4 liters per 100 kilometers.

Greater forces than in Formula 1

The heart of the Audi R10 TDI is a V12 TDI engine, which has the maximum permissible capacity of 5.5 liters allowed at Le Mans. With over 650 hp and more than 1100 Newton meters torque, Audi breaks new ground for Diesel engines. This makes enormous demands of the R10 TDI transmission system. Due to the higher torque values, the forces acting on the transmission are far greater than those seen in a Formula 1 race car. The gear box had to be designed in much the same way as the driveshafts and the new ceramic clutch. No more than five forward gears are required owing to the turbo diesel engine's characteristics. The reduced number of gear shifts is an essential factor with regard to durability, since the transmission is subject to extremely-high loads at Le Mans.

VIPs grace the Le Mans 24 Hours

Robert Coyiuto, Jr., Chairman of PGA Cars, Inc. and Rupert Stadler, Chairman of the Board of Management of Audi AG, joined other VIPs in the recently concluded 2007 Le Mans.

Le Mans, 17 June 2007 - The Le Mans 24 Hours is well-known as the toughest car race in the world. Set in a small, industrial city, southwest of Paris, it is the legendary race that goes way back in history. It tests the endurance of the car, the driver's skill of surviving the 24-hour drive and teamwork of the group. Because of this intriguing challenge, it attracts many VIPs from business, sports, showbiz and politics worldwide, year after year.

Before the start of the race, the new French Prime Minister Francois Fillon visited the Audi pits.

Many members of the management of the Audi AG also visited the Le Mans 24 Hours to see the race live. Among them were Ferdinand Piëch, Prof. Dr. Martin Winterkorn and Rupert Stadler, Chairman of the Board of Management of Audi AG Germany.

Traveling all the way from the Philippines, the Chairman of PGA Cars, Inc. – the sole importer and distributor of Audi cars in this country, Robert Coyiuto, Jr. arrived as well, upon the exclusive invitation of Audi AG Germany Chairman Stadler.

On Friday evening, Audi invited their guests to a Barbecue Party at the Le Mans "Country Club". There, people were entertained by the musical setup of Harald Krüger on stage together with the "Party Gang with Lou".

On Saturday, prior to the start of the race, the new "Audi Tower" was unveiled. The presentation of the 12-meter high sculpture which honors the Audi victories at Le Mans was attended by Head of Audi Motorsport, Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich; ACO president, Jean-Claude Plassart; and Le Mans record winner, Tom Kristensen.

Like last year, Audi DTM driver Vanina Ickx served as a reporter at the Le Mans for the French TV station Canal plus.

The event was watched by 250,920 spectators "live" at trackside - a new record.

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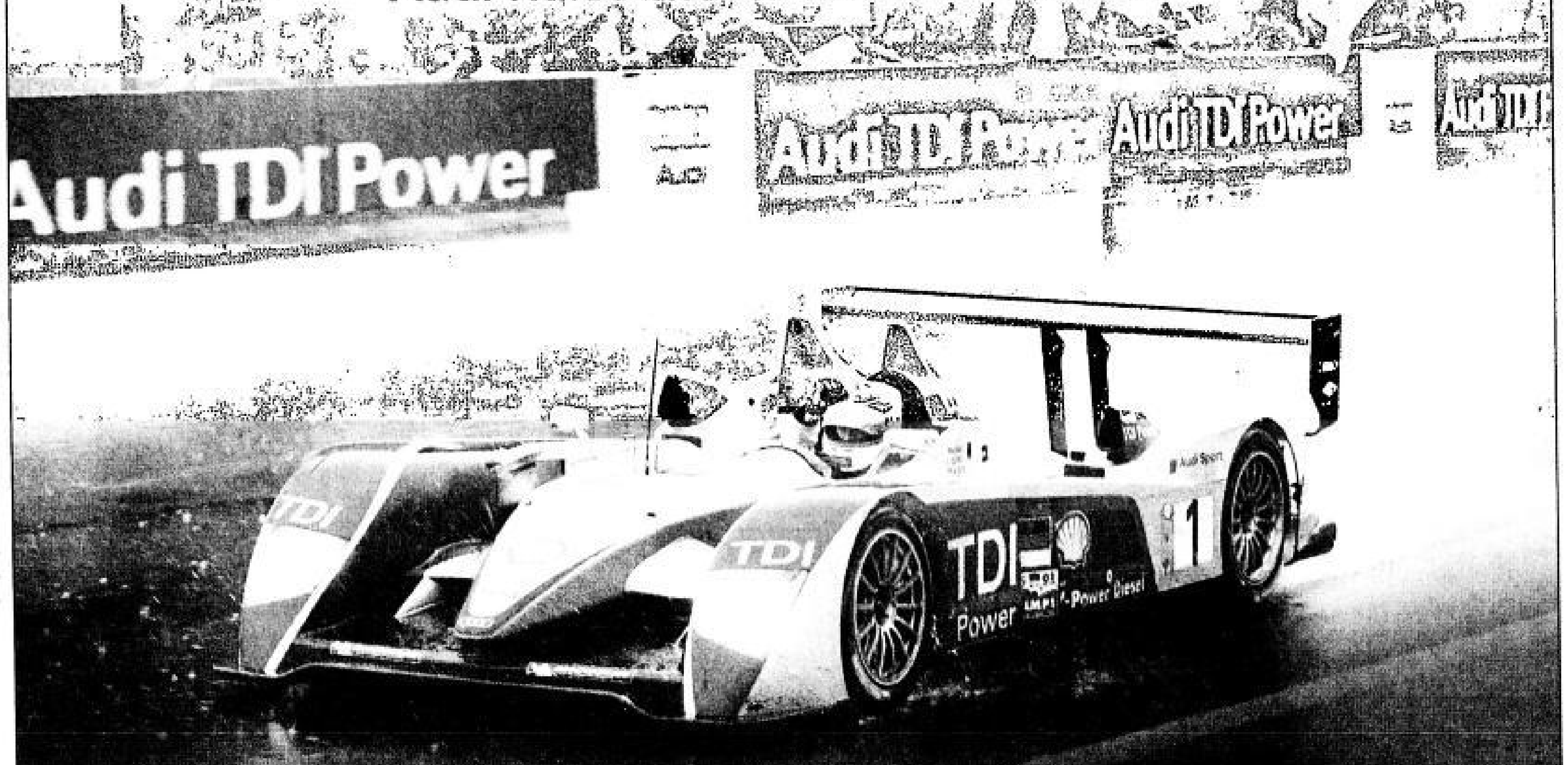

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0554 Series of 2007

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Coal mine, park get perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS granted incentives to a P307.2-million coal-mining venture in Surigao as well as a P131.2-million business park project in Calamba for micro, small and medium enterprises.

MG Mining & Energy Corp., which is based in Surigao del Sur, is involved in the exploration and development of a coal mine capable of producing 312,000 metric tons a year.

MGMEC's project is expected to create 130 new jobs and at least 70 indirect jobs, mainly in marketing and administrative functions.

The company's coal properties include three main projects—one in Bislig in Surigao—which is in the development stage—and two in Argao, Cebu, and in Daguma, South Cotabato—both in the appraisal stage.

MGMEC's project would cater to power producers and cement manufacturers, including Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines, Toledo Power Corp., Davao Union, National Power Corp., Ilijan Power Corp., Alson's Cement and Philippine National Oil Co.

Also, BOI approved perks for Filinvest Land Inc.'s business park facilities covering 20 hectares in Calamba.

The MSME Business Park is a pioneering property development project with 374 units.

Dubbed "Asenso Village," the project would be similar to a cottage industry village where MSMW owners and operators, their families and workers could live and work.

According to Filinvest, the business park—for new and existing entrepreneurs—would help MSMEs be competitive locally and globally.

The development of business parks is qualified for tax holidays and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan.

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PhilHealth's financial health

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE Corp. (PhilHealth) recently ran newspaper ads to prove its financial soundness. The ads answered reports that a whopping P1 billion in fraudulent claims have ravaged PhilHealth over the past 12 years.

In 1995, Republic Act No. 7875 created the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), designed to provide affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services to all citizens.

Under this insurance policy, the healthy helps pay for the care of the sick, and those who can afford medical care subsidize those who cannot.

The law also created Philhealth to run the NHIP. To start, PhilHealth took over the so-called Medicare Programs started back in 1969 when the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Insurance Service System (GSIS) ran parallel policies for the employed in the private and public sectors, respectively.

The sources of funds are practically inexhaustible. Congress appropriates every year 25 percent of the increment in total revenue from excise taxes on cigar and cigarettes and the increase in documentary stamp taxes.

But the biggest sources of funds are the members themselves, who contribute 2.5 percent of their salaries, shared equally by employer and employee.

I believe the ads that PhilHealth is financially sound, despite the expose that it has paid out P1 billion in fraudulent claims in 12 years.

Let us take a look at those fraudulent claims.

Assuming a worst-case scenario, a member can claim P23,870 maximum.

This amount covers the ceiling of 30 days' confinement in a tertiary hospital, catastrophic expenses, professional fees and surgical costs.

The P1 billion divided by P23,870 is 41,894. Spread out over 12 years, we come up with about 3,500 claims a year, almost 10 cases a day.

But the actual average claim is much less. Hospitals send patients home as fast as they can. The average confinement is probably no more than a week. When my prostate was operated on, I stayed in the hospital for only five days.

My guess is that the average claim is P10,000. If the fraudulent claims total P1 billion, this means there were 100,000 claims over the past 12 years.

Nobody at Philhealth got wise to what was going on? Come on!

I cannot help but conclude that the P1 billion in fraudulent claims is a figment of someone's fertile imagination, to be corny about it.

Insurance companies all over the world have had to grapple with the problem of fraudulent claims.

Here, private life insurance companies have computerized early warning systems for detecting spurious claims.

I know a company that detected fraud from one source after only six claims. The agent and the attending physician were sacked right away.

Surely, PhilHealth have had its share of fraudulent claims that passed through the mill and actually got paid. But the total is nowhere near P1 billion over 12 years.

It should not be too hard to build cases against the guilty ones. Fraudulent claims are always fully documented.

PhilHealth should throw the book at the guilty. Accreditation of hospitals, clinics and doctors should be withdrawn.

Any employee who is a party to fraud should be separated for cause.

PhilHealth cannot afford to be wishy-washy about this problem. The rule of law has to be applied relentlessly.

The money contributed by members, many of whom earn minimum wages, are held by PhilHealth in trust, to be returned in the future as benefits.

PhilHealth should handle these trust funds with the utmost care and diligence, and defend their integrity with unwavering determination.

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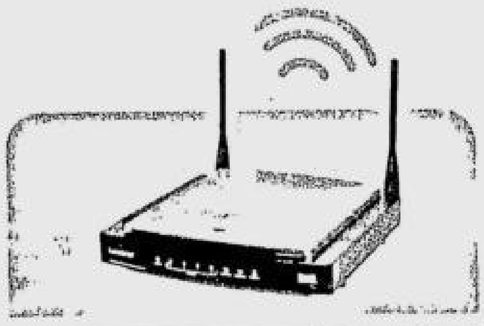

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Electronics exports seen up in '07

Industry group expects trade to pick up after disappointing performance in April

ELECTRONICS EXPORTS CAN STILL EXpand by a targeted 10 percent in 2007 despite a disappointing performance in April and a drop in imports of parts, an industry group yesterday said.

Electronics make up over 60 percent of total Philippine exports, which has been one of the bright spots of the country's economy.

But electronics exports grew only 1.1 percent year-on-year in April after 7.3 percent expansion in March and imports of parts needed for finished products dropped.

According to figures announced released yesterday, imports of electronics parts plunged 17.3 percent in April from a year ago and were down 19.4 percent from March, signaling a weak export performance ahead.

Ernesto Santiago, executive director of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI), however said the figures could be distorted by the Easter holidays in April, when the country came to a standstill for almost an entire week.

"The global environment is conducive for us to grow this year," Santiago told Reuters, adding that exporters were generally optimistic about export revenues in the second quarter.

"There has been inventory pick up, they are preparing for Q2, so Q2 is a bullish quarter," he said.

Santiago said wireless applications, mobile phone, consumer products like LCDs and high-definition television sets and i-Pod would be the main drivers of growth for the electronics sector this year.

Last year, electronics export grew 11 percent, slightly higher than the industry's 10 percent projection. SEIPI projects a further 10 percent growth in exports in 2007.

Analysts said the import numbers were worrying because they arrived just as the peso was gaining strength.

"It does not augur well for electronics exports in coming months, given the 17.3 percent plunge in April's electronics imports in spite of the stronger peso," said Patricia Lui, managing analyst with Informal Global Markets in Singapore.

The peso weakened after the data, falling as far as 46.23 against the US dollar compared to Monday's close at 46.075. But the currency still remains more than 6 percent stronger than at the end of last year.

Yields on three-month government paper were quoted higher at 4.729 percent compared to 4.6769 percent previously. The stock market was flat at 3,657.12 points after the trade data.

Reuters

Easycall sells 2.25M shares in e-Performax

By Riza T. Olchondra

FORMER PAGING LEADER EASYCALL COMmunications Philippines Inc. will sell 90 percent of its stake in e-Performax Contact Centers Corp. to Global eBusiness Solutions Inc. for P70 million.

Easycall yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had already obtained its board's approval to sell 2.25 million of its shares in e-Performax.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to settle Easycall's labor and other legal claims, fines and penalties imposed by the National Telecommunications Commission, and advances from third parties—all amounting to about P85.4 million.

Selling off the stocks will pose a challenge for the company since e-Performax is a major contributor to its revenue.

In the first quarter of the year, EasyCall posted a consolidated net income growth of 117 percent from last year's P3.87 million.

"This growth was largely fueled by the increase in the company's equity in net earnings of a call-center associate, e-Performax Contact Centers Corp. and, to a lesser extent, by the cost rationalization measures, which streamlined operations for both the parent company and EasyCall e-Services Inc. (e-Serve), a wholly owned Internet services subsidiary," the company said in its disclosure.

During the first quarter, EasyCall's consolidated service revenue amounted to P4.03 million compared with P4.43 million in the same period last year.

The company said the 9-percent decline can be attributed to the reduction of dial-up Internet subscription as the Internet service provider industry moves toward broadband options.

RP business group seeks wider trade with S. Africa

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF Commerce and Industry announced that it had signed an agreement with its South African counterpart to revive a joint business council that would promote greater trade between the two countries.

PCCI president Samie Lim said the group's partnership with the South Africa Chamber of Business, as well as agreements with the other South African chambers, would provide the groundwork for initiating more investment activities.

"We also agreed to reinvigorate the Philippine-South Africa Business Council," Lim said.

He added that the agreement would strengthen the structure and membership base of the PSABC, which was originally formed in 2004, to further develop trade between the Philippines and South Africa.

Lim cited South Africa's mining, furniture, tourism and pharmaceutical industries, as "possible areas of collaboration."

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry show that merchandise exports to South Africa went up in 2006 by 45.4 percent to $51.08 million, or 0.11 percent of the total outward shipments.

Major cargoes bound for South Africa included pharmaceutical products; petroleum products; processed dairy products and birds' eggs, juices, purees and concentrates; processed nuts and coconut products; semiconductors; electronic data processing and office equipment, and automotive parts.

Last year, the Philippines enjoyed a surplus in trade as imports from South Africa went down by 26.5 percent to $37.86 million.

Major cargoes from South Africa included paper and paper products; animal feed stuff; cereals; base metal ores and concentrates; unmanufactured tobacco; semiconductors; automotive parts; iron and steel; and organic chemicals.

Imports fell 1.8% ...

From page B1

The April figure brought the country's total imports for the first four months to $16.31 billion, still up 3.4 percent from the same period a year ago.

With exports earlier reported to have reached $16.3 billion for the first four months of the year, the country's balance of trade (BOT) was only $8 million during the period.

In the case of the Philippines, a deficit in the BOT is not a cause for too much concern. Economists have noted that the bulk or about 80 percent of imports comprised raw materials and intermediate goods. A rise in imports therefore indicates an expected increase in production and exports in the months ahead.

The weaker-than-expected growth in imports in the first four months raised doubts whether the country could still meet the government's official target of an 11-percent year-on-year exports growth for 2007.

But Ernesto Santiago, president of the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), told the INQUIRER that the sector was still bullish about earnings prospects for this year. The industry was still looking at a double-digit exports growth of 10 percent this year despite the imports slowdown. *(See story on page B5.)*

The other major imports for April after electronics were mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ($930 million); industrial machinery and equipment ($148.71 million); transport equipment ($123.53 million); textile, yarn, fabrics and related materials ($112.9 million), and iron and steel ($112.9 million); chemicals ($81.6 million); cereals and cereal preparation ($75.78 million); plastics ($73 million), and telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery ($64.52 million).

The biggest source of imports for April was still the United States, which accounted for $638.87 million of the total for the month.

Other top import sources were Singapore ($530.4 million), Japan ($494.75 million), Saudi Arabia ($432.43 million), China ($327.36 million), Taiwan ($266.81 million), South Korea ($227.88 million), Hong Kong ($169.83 million), Thailand ($148.97 million) and Malaysia ($145.94 million).

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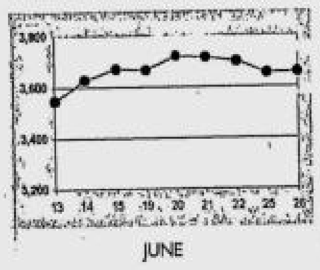
Shares close little changed



SHARE PRICES CLOSED LITTLE changed yesterday, with gains in blue chips offset by losses in the broader market in cautious trade, dealers said.

They said stocks recovered in the middle of the session after a weak start but gave up some gains late in the session.

The composite index edged up 3.54 points at 3,657.12 after moving between 3,639.12 and 3,680.70.

The broader all-share index rose 1.34 points to 2,351.09.

Losers beat gainers, 94 to 40 while 44 stocks ended flat. Volume totaled 5.4 billion shares worth P5.3 billion.

Cautiousness prevailed in late trade as investors chose to stay on the sidelines ahead of the Federal Reserve meeting this week, said Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.

"Given the slump in US housing loans, investors widely expect a retention of current interest rates but still played it safe," Cerdenia said.

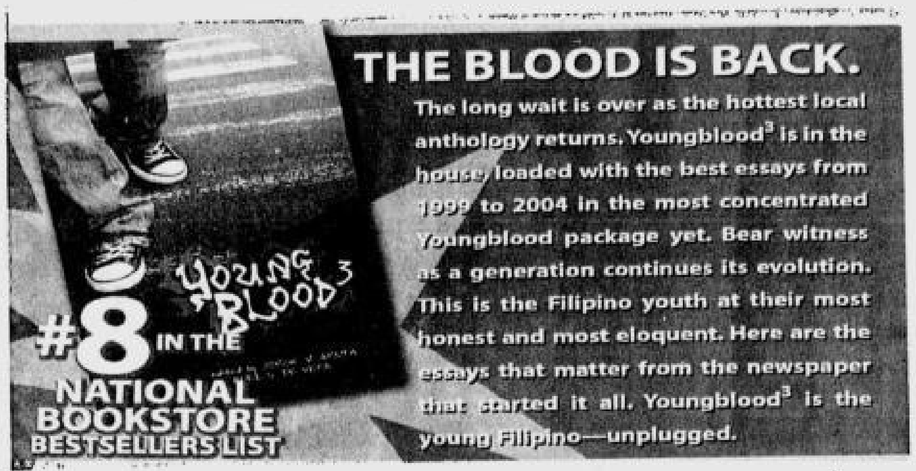
"The market was on a roller-coaster ride with big swings as investors were trying to pick sides with no firm domestic leads to digest," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

But the market could rebound strongly later in the week as fund managers window-dress their stock portfolios when the first half of the year closes, said Jasper Jimenez of BDO Securities Corp.

The day's biggest decliners were banks including Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., which dropped P2.50 to P69 and Banco de Oro-EPCI, which shed P2 to P68.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. or PLDT rebounded from Monday's drop, adding P30 to P2,670.

San Miguel saw its "A" shares rise by P1.50 to P75 while its "B" shares gained P2.50 to P81. *AFP*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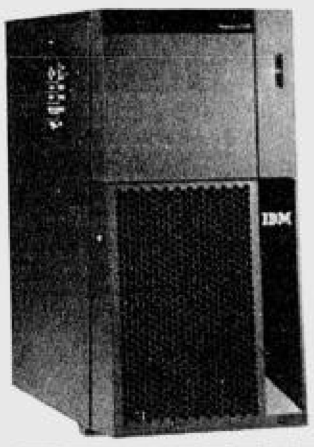

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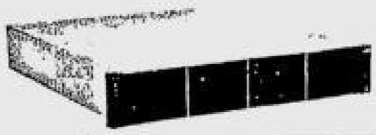

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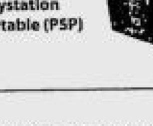
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 26, 2007)

52-WEEKS HIGH	52-WEEKS LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	52,400
71.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	70	70	68.5	68.5	758,100
73.5	45.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	71.5	71.5	70.5	71	941,900
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.57	0.57	27,490,000
75.5	30.5	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	71	71	69	69	3,538,600
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	62	62	61	61.5	155,000
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63.5	66	63.5	66	1,200
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	51	51	50	50	400
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35	2,439,400
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	84	84	83	83	135,500
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	63	62.5	62.5	115,100
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
4.4	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.5	4.4	3.5	4.3	4,003,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.48	1.4	1.4	1,325,000
13.5	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.75	13.5	12.75	13.5	3,233,800
1.54	0.4	First Abacus Financial Hldg Corp.	1.18	1.54	1.18	1.46	18,306,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	10,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,670.00	1,670.00	1,670.00	######	860
5	4.05	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	3,601,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	252,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	855	860	840	855	8,680
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,130.00	2,150.00	2,130.00	######	510
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	941,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
67.5	41	First Gen Corp.	66.5	67	66	67	461,300
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85.5	88	85.5	87	914,100
12.75	7	Manila Water Company Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	15,241,600
108	14	Manila Electric Company A	97.5	108	97.5	104	878,000
109	20.5	Manila Electric Company B	100	109	100	104	1,961,930
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.3	61,717,000
5.8	3.5	Petron Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	8,179,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	1,742,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	25,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.38	2.4	3,304,000
8	1.9	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	2,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2	2	2	2	9,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	4,400
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54.5	54.5	54	54	344,300
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.66	746,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	1,169,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	73.5	76.5	73.5	75	446,900
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. B	79.5	81.5	79	81	1,163,500
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	260,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	3,600,300
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.8	1.27	EEI Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	427,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	232,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	200,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Hldg Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.76	2,101,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	324,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.4	2.4	1.44	1.44	52,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.3	1.3	1,751,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.06	Picop Resources Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.39	0.39	34,330,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.7	520,000
0.165	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.165	214,890,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.14	39,560,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.85	3.1	2.75	2.8	7,994,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.9	3.15	2.9	2.9	440,000
0.018	0.0085	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	338,500,000
0.019	0.0085	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	15,500,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8,728,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.018	581,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	50,072,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Cons Resources Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.14	1.24	250,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.38	1.26	1.28	274,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.5	2.5	6,000,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4	3.6	3.6	46,000
590	275	Ayala Corp.	550	560	550	555	318,690
13	6.96	Bacnotan Cons Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	42,600
6.9	0.7	Balabac Res and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.7	5.2	4.7	4.7	1,512,000
5.4	0.99	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.95	5.3	4.95	5.1	18,442,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9	9	9	465,000
2	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	2	2	1.8	1.8	237,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	2,291,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	3	3	3	3	730,000
14.5	5.5	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	264,000
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.65	230,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.71	410,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	26.5	27	26	26	1,046,400
11.5	0.25	Multitech Investments Corp.	10.5	10.75	9.9	9.9	7,117,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.85	4.75	3.85	4.25	3,671,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.035	0.036	0.034	0.034	171,300,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	49,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.6	11,640,000
432.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	410	412.5	405	405	189,820
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	149,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.63	35,970,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	870,000
1.6	0.76	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	456,000
2	0.8	Vivant Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.62	0.62	30,050,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.74	1.74	1,698,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.91	0.91	820,000
19.25	8.96	Ayala Land Inc.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	22,573,300
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.74	5,617,000
4.7	1.86	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.6	4.35	4.6	107,000
4.6	1.6	City and Land Developers Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	15,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	258,000
0.73	0.25	Crown Equities Inc.	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.71	19,080,000
0.83	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.63	0.63	30,490,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	500,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.88	0.88	91,940,000
0.32	0.03	Ever Gotesco Res and Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	20,090,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.18	1.18	23,524,000
2.44	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.3	2.32	2.26	2.26	70,956,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	40,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	108,200,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. B	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	43,100,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	12,370,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.97	1.02	11,760,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4.05	4.1	4	4	30,402,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	115,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.6	15,760,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.69	0.69	37,690,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	7.2	7.8	7.1	7.3	488,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20	20	20	355,300
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.6	6,460,000
12	5.76	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	9,902,900
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1.14	1.2	1.1	1.1	12,426,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	14,360,000
5.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	247,000
		MEDIA					
34	14	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	15,000
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	123,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.6	3,736,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,360.00	1,370.00	1,360.00	######	332,460
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,640.00	2,675.00	2,640.00	######	62,940
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.9	1,732,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	16,920,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10.75	12	10.25	10.25	287,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7	7	6.8	6.9	1,568,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	59,900,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.4	206,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.135	0.15	148,410,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	350,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0625	0.065	368,600,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	4.35	4.6	4.3	4.35	3,544,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.88	303,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6	6	6	6	10,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29.5	29.5	29	29	3,557,400
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	328,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	8,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	1,781,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	4.9	5	862,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	111,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	2,470,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.99	1,100,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	2,000
966.67	850	Far Eastern University Inc.	850	850	850	850	1,150
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	99,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.3	1.88	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.2	5	5	1,662,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16	16.25	15.75	15.75	457,500
30	9.8	Paxys Inc.	25	25	24.75	25	35,500
110	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	100	110	100	110	1,200
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	675,600,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	274,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6	6	5.9	5.9	134,000
21.25	7.3	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	1,036,100
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	12.25	12.25	12	12	40,600
3.05	0.0624	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.75	2.8	84,475,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	13,640,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	4,800,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.035	625,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	220,200,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	279,000,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.5	16,127,000
29.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	59,700
1.36	0.32	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	10,865,000
1.8	0.5	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	7,392,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.24	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.49	0.51	0.48	0.49	11,710,000
0.025	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	249,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	58,500,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	176,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	237,100,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH
SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Pacific Online tapped for new project of PCSO

LOTTERY EQUIPMENT PROVIDER PACIFIC Online Systems Corp. yesterday said it was going into the instant ticket lottery market.

The government-regulated instant ticket lottery is typically played by removing the coating of a pre-printed ticket to determine whether it contains the winning numbers. The ticket may cost P20 and the jackpot is worth P1 million, sources said.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Pacific Online said it had been appointed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) as the master distributor of a PCSO Scratch Card game project which is slated for launch in July.

Pacific Online and Scientific Games Inc. will team up to assist PCSO in launching the PCSO Scratch Card Game Project known as the "Triple Cash" and "Money Bags."

Sources said that with these games, PCSO is expected to raise P200 million in sales in the next six months.

SGI, Pacific Online's partner in its online lottery operations in Visayas-Mindanao, and the leading provider of instant lottery tickets in the world, has been tapped to design and print the scratch tickets to be used for PCSO projects.

SGI has also agreed to provide technical consultancy in the marketing and distribution aspects of the project.

"The instant games business is one of the fastest growing segments of the worldwide gaming industry today, and through this new investment, the company seeks to take advantage of this area of growth in the industry where it operates," Pacific Online said in the disclosure. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

Thrift banks' bad loans declining

But NPL ratio to total loans remained at 7.29% as lending also went down

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NON-PERFORMING LOANS-TO-TOTAL loans ratio of the country's thrift banks in April remained at its previous month's level of 7.29 percent, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The BSP said the NPL ratio did not change because the drop in nonperforming loans was offset by the decline in the thrift banking sector's total loan portfolio.

The latest NPL ratio, however, was 17 percent better than the 8.78 percent recorded in April last year.

NPL ratio measures the exposure of banks to soured loans. It is determined by dividing NPLs to the total loan portfolio.

NPLs of thrift banks stood at P20.332 billion in April, down by 19 percent from P20.371 billion in March. Their total loan portfolio reached P278.878 billion, 21.5 percent lower than the P279.48 billion in the previous month.

The banking industry suffered from a high level of soured assets, including NPLs, especially during the Asian financial crisis. The problem on the burgeoning bad assets in the late 1990s up to early 2000 was blamed for the banking sector's reluctance to lend more aggressively.

To help banks unload the bulk of their bad loans and soured assets, the Special Purpose Vehicle Law was put in place. The SPV Law, which was extended last month for another two years, provided tax discounts on the sale of NPLs and nonperforming assets to asset management companies.

The BSP said the current NPL ratio of the thrift banking industry was not much of a concern, as it was within a single-digit level. The sector's NPL ratio, excluding inter-bank lending, stood at 8.48 percent in April, better than the previous month's 8.66 percent and year-ago's 9.51 percent.

The BSP said the proportion of restructured loans to total loan portfolio stood at 2 percent in April from 1.99 percent in the previous month and 2.93 percent in April last year.

Nonperforming assets-to-total assets ratio rose to 10.76 percent in April from the 10.74 percent in March, but reflected an improvement from the 12.37 percent in April last year. NPA ratio measures the banks' exposure in nonperforming assets, or those that have been foreclosed because of unpaid loans.

Also, the central bank said the NPL coverage ratio of thrift banks fell to 50.28 percent in April from 50.46 percent in March. This measures how much of the existing NPLs are covered by reserved funds.

Napocor revives dam operators group

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO ENHANCE THE operations of its hydropower facilities, state-run National Power Corp. has reactivated the multi-sectoral Philippine National Committee on Large Dams (PNCold), which is composed of large government and private dam operators.

"PNCold's reactivation will provide a venue for us large dam operators, both government and private, to share experiences to further improve our operations and maintenance to ensure public safety," the state firm said in a statement.

The nonprofit organization is composed of government firms Napocor, National Irrigation Administration and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Private entities that are part of the organization include CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc., San Roque Power Corp., and the Engineering and Development Corp. of the Philippines.

PNCold aims to enhance the knowledge of large dam operators regarding new trends and methods in the different stages of the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of large dams.

It also aims to gather relevant information, lessons learned, large dam engineering practices and study-related questions, including those on the technical, economical, financial, environmental and social aspects of operating large dams.

Within the organization, members are expected to exchange information with each other, get new information from international organizations and institutions, hold meetings and technical conferences, as well as organize and coordinate studies with one another and also with nonmember organizations.

DOT expects brisk hotel dev't to boost tourism

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

DURANO

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM EXPECTS hotel development to be brisk in the coming years with at least two big-ticket hotel projects starting this year.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano told participants in a Philippine Business Mission in Tokyo last Friday that he was expecting 3,000 additional hotel rooms to be made available this year in Cebu, Bohol, Boracay and Palawan. Of these, 1,000 will be in Cebu.

Data from the DOT website showed that as of September last year, there were 28,742 hotel rooms in the country, of which DOT-accredited hotels accounted for 26,247.

The two major hotel projects cited by Durano were the P3-billion The Imperial Waterpark Resort and Spa in Mactan and the P1-billion Boracay Shangri-la Hotel and Resort.

The 600-room Imperial Waterpark, which is owned by a Korean group, hopes to bring state-of-the-art water park technology to the Philippines.

Boracay Shangri-la Hotel and Resort, which will open next year, will bring in additional 200 rooms.

Last year, the DOT approved P93.8 billion worth of investments in the hotel and resort sector. Another P9.52 billion worth of such projects were approved in the first quarter of the year.

One of the DOT's programs is to promote the Philippines to Japanese travel agents through business missions, a series of plenary presentations, tabletop discussions and individual meetings organized in Japan's three largest cities, Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo.

"Growth of foreign arrivals is highly dependent on the pace of capacity expansion. Our target of 5 million tourists by 2010 is a battlecry. Our main objective is to continuously grow the sector because tourism development is a long-term program. Thailand took 20 to 25 years to get to where they are," Durano added.

Another project expected to boost tourism in the Philippines is mall tycoon Henry Sy's massive eco-tourism estate in Batangas called Hamilo Coast.

SM Investments Corp.(SMIC), Sy's holding company for his banking, leisure, retail investments, said it was pouring P5 to P6 billion over the next five years to pursue the first phase of its titanic 5,800 hectare Hamilo Coast beach resort community in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Durano also noted that a new convention center would rise at the center of Mall of Asia in Pasay. The 42,500 -square -meter SMX Convention Center will be accessible to a new hotel in the SM Bay City to be developed by Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific.

Carlson will develop and manage a 350-room property in SM Bay City.

Carlson brands include Regent Hotels & Resorts, Radisson Hotels and Resorts and Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts.

Ayala Land Inc. said it was building a 300-room Fairmont Hotel, a 30-suite Raffles hotel and a 189 Raflles-branded private residences in Makati in partnership with Dubai's leading hotel and resort developer, Kingdom Hotel Investments.

The Metrobank Group had also announced plans to construct the country's tallest building, which will house a five-star hotel, in Fort Bonifacio Global City, Durano said.

Federal Land Inc. will build a 66-story structure whose upper 20 floors would be occupied by a 350-room hotel.

The mixed-use complex would be built on the 27-hectare North Bonifacio district inside Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Federal Land chair Alfred Ty had said the entire complex would cost P20 billion.

Liquigaz buys Chevron LPG assets

LIQUIGAZ PHILIPPINES INC. YESTERDAY said it had bought Chevron Philippines' business and assets related to liquefied petroleum gas for commercial and industrial customers.

The report came in the wake of an announcement that Chevron had sold its retail LPG business— involving 11-kilogram cylinders of cooking gas—to Petron Corp.

When asked how much the deal was worth, Liquigaz officials declined to say, citing a confidentiality agreement with Chevron.

But Liquigaz president Partrick Libihoul said during a briefing that the acquisition represented 1 percent of the domestic LPG market and up to 6 percent of the commercial and industrial segment, or consumers that use 50-kilogram cylinders up to 60-ton storage tanks.

"This brings our overall market share to 25.5 percent and our segment market share to about 28 percent," Libihoul said.

In a prepared statement, Chevron said the sale—which is the final phase of its divestment of Caltex LPG—included supply contracts to direct-serve customers.

"The transfer of interests is expected to have no effect of the domestic LPG supply," Chevron said.

According to a company fact sheet, Liquigaz is the preferred supplier of up to half of all independent brands and already supplies some 890 commercial and industrial customers.

"These include 217 McDonald's stores, 200 Andok's outlets, and branches of restaurants like Max's Fried Chicken and Aristrocrat," Libihoul said.

He added that under the purchase deal with Chevron, Liquigaz must stop using the Caltex LPG brand within 180 days.

Further, he explained that Liquigaz had concentrated on serving commercial and industrial consumers in the past 10 years or so, but that the company wanted to maintain a presence in all segments.

Still, he said the company's expansion plans would center on the autogas or LPG for cars—mainly taxicabs.

"We were the first to develop the autogas and currently we represent 40 percent of the domestic market," the executive said.

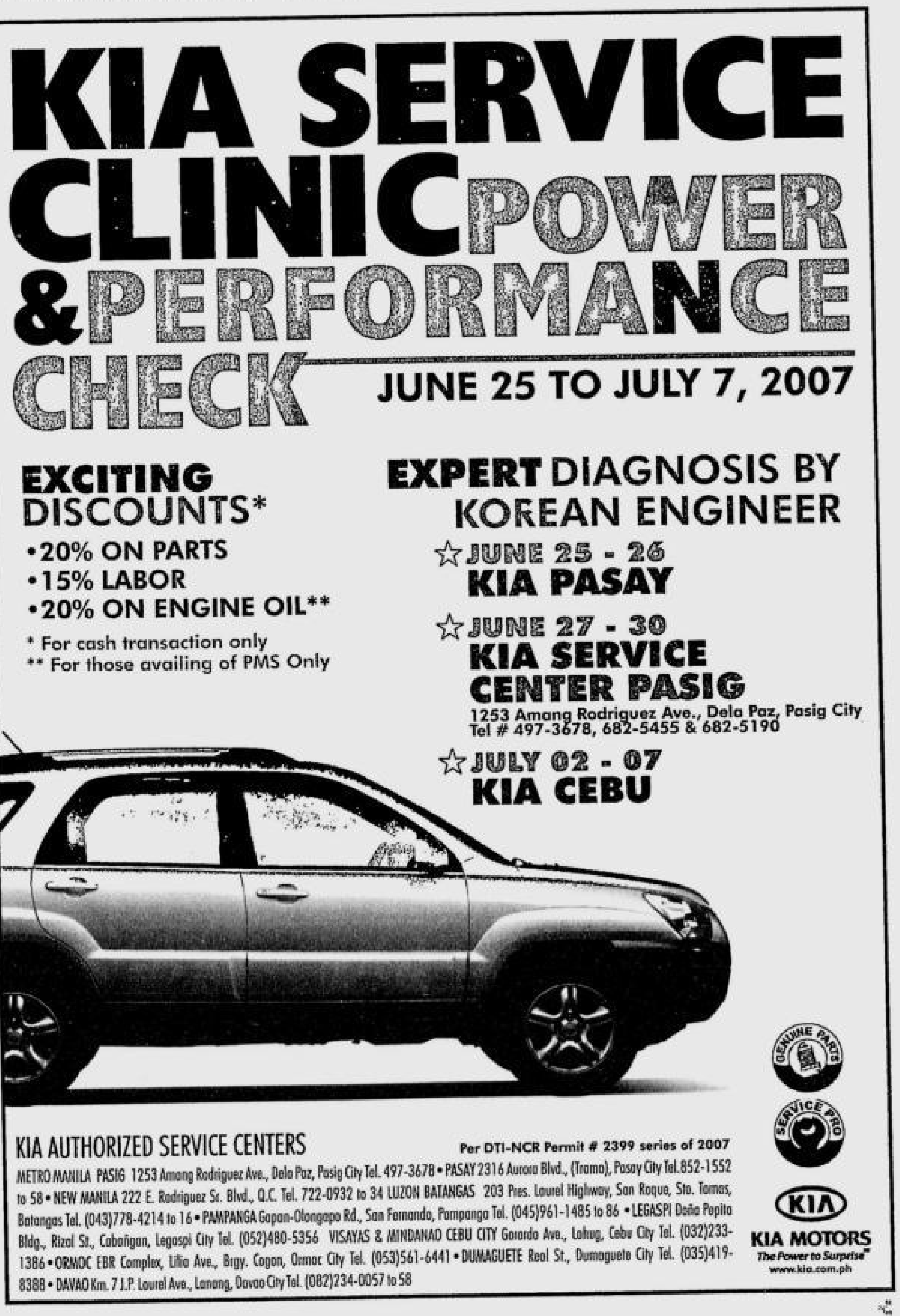
Liquigaz is a fully owned unit of the SHV group of The Netherlands, which also owns the Makro chain of cash and carry retail stores in the country.

The firm owns the largest pressurized LPG import terminal in the Philippines as well as in Asia with 12,000 metric tons of storage capacity and for which Liquigaz invested some $45 million.

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.742666	1.000000	46.1050
Japan	Yen	0.006008	0.008090	0.3730
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483698	1.997800	92.1086
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095063	0.128002	5.9015
Switzerland	Franc	0.604777	0.814332	37.5448
Canada	Dollar	0.693756	0.934143	43.0687
Singapore	Dollar	0.483098	0.650491	29.9909
Australia	Dollar	0.629645	0.847817	39.0886
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.970146	2.652801	122.3074
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198023	0.266638	12.2933
Brunei	Dollar	0.481531	0.648382	29.8937
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023064	0.031056	1.4318
UAE	Dirham	0.202207	0.272272	12.5531
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.346500	62.0804
Korea	Won	0.000802	0.001080	0.0498
China	Yuan**	0.097470	0.131244	6.0510
ArgentinaPeso	0.241125	0.324675	14.9691	
Brazil	Real	0.383213	0.515996	23.7900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134431	0.181012	8.3456
India	Rupee	0.018238	0.024558	1.1322
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214457	0.288767	13.3136
Mexico	New Peso	0.068472	0.092198	4.2508
New Zealand	Dollar	0.568788	0.765873	35.3106
South Africa	Rand	0.103846	0.139829	6.4468
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022665	0.030519	1.4071

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 25, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of June 25, 2007



KIA SERVICE CLINIC POWER & PERFORMANCE CHECK

JUNE 25 TO JULY 7, 2007

EXCITING DISCOUNTS*
- 20% ON PARTS
- 15% LABOR
- 20% ON ENGINE OIL**

* For cash transaction only
** For those availing of PMS Only

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Philippine Semiconductor & Electronics Convention and Exhibition

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June 27-29, 2007

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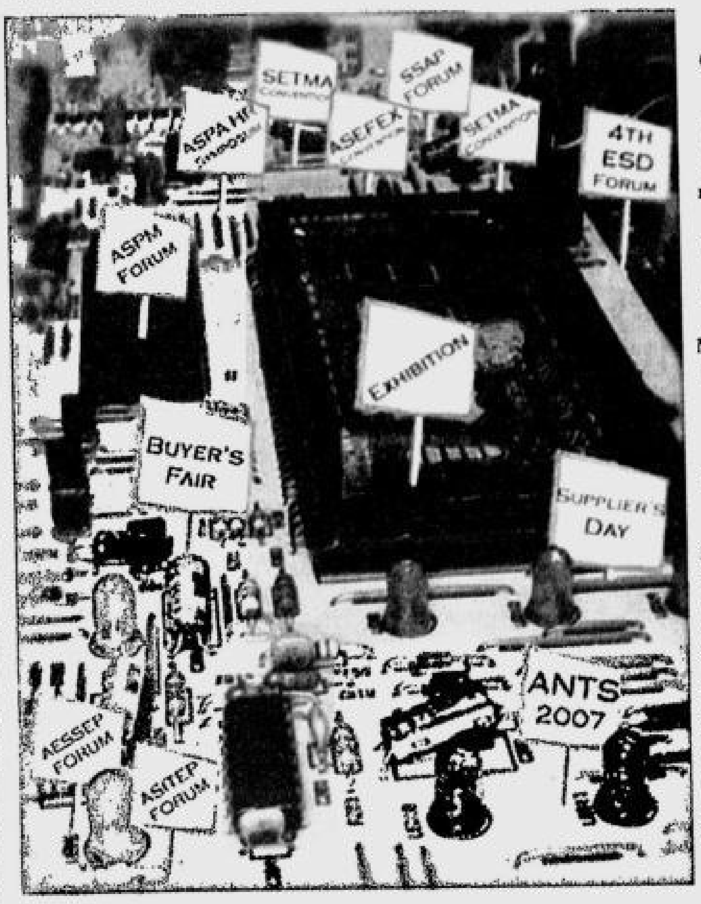

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Semiconductor and Electronics Industry in the Philippines (SEIPI) - the leading and largest organization of foreign and local semiconductor and electronics companies in the country, working towards global leadership and competitiveness.

- Electronics is the Main Driver of Philippine Economy accounting for 70% of the country's total exports.
- US $30B exports in 2006!
- SEIPI member companies numbering 230, representing 80% of total electronics export – the country's foremost economic force
- Employs over 400,000 engineers, technical workers and operators
- Working with key stakeholders and providing leadership towards enhancing a competitive business environment

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 27, 2007 (WEDNESDAY)

ASSOCIATION OF SEIPI FINANCE EXECUTIVE (ASEFEX)
"Finance Executive in the Forefront in Sustaining Enterprise Growth and Development"
Venue: Boracay Room, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
8:00-5:00 P.M.

ASSOCIATION OF SEIPI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVES AND PROFESSIONALS (ASITEP)
"The Role of IT in Sustaining and Furthering Growth and Development"
Venue: Panay Room, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
8:00-4:30 P.M.

ASSOCIATION OF SEIPI PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATORS (ASPA)
"Human Resources – Strategic Partner in Creating & Sustaining Business Growth"
Venue: Samar/Leyte Room, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
8:00-5:00 P.M.

ASSOCIATION OF SEIPI PURCHASING MANAGERS (ASPM)
SEIPI TRAFFIC MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (SETMA)
"Enhancing Supply Chain Management Process in the Information Age"
Venue: Visayas Room, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
8:00-5:30 P.M.

SEMICONDUCTOR SECURITY ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SSAP)
SSAP-Security NWC, PSECE Convention 2007
Venue: Mindoro Room, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
8:00-5:00 P.M.

TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM

Day 1 - June 28, 2007
Product and Test Technology
Venue: Samar/Leyte Room
Semiconductor Manufacturing Systems
Venue: Davao Room
Semiconductor Manufacturing Systems (before break)
Electronic Manufacturing Systems (after break)
Venue: Boracay Room
Facilities (before break)/Support Systems (after break)
Venue: Panay Room
Support Systems
Venue: Mindoro Room

Day 2 - June 29, 2007
Quality Systems, Failure Analysis and Reliability
Venue: Samar/Leyte Room
Semiconductor Manufacturing Systems
Venues: Davao Room/Boracay Room
Quality Systems, Failure Analysis and Reliability
Venue: Panay Room
Fellowship Night / Closing Ceremonies
Venue: Sunset Pavillion

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1. 2M Technologies Pte. Ltd.
2. 3M Philippines, Inc.
3. Amelco Dessicants, Inc.
4. American Resources Group Phils., Inc. (PESSA)
5. APM-Technica AG
6. Augment Stats Controls, Inc.
7. BP Integrated Technologies, Inc.
8. Champion Fine Tooling Corp.
9. Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc.
10. Covenant Group (PESSA)
11. Cytek Solutions, Inc. (PESSA)
12. D Squared Technology, Inc.
13. D'Arcy Commercial Corporation (PESSA)
14. DHL Express (Phils.), Inc.
15. Doeleur Electrosystems, Inc. (PESSA)
16. Dou Yee Enterprises (Phils.), Inc.
17. Edgeworth Corporation
18. Edward Keller (Philippines), Inc.
19. Elitech Corporation (PESSA)
20. Extreme Systems Technology Phils., Inc. (PESSA)
21. FJCO (PESSA)
22. Globaltech Automation, Inc. (PESSA)
23. GMV Materials, Inc.
24. Henkel Philippines
25. Heraeus Electronic Materials Philippines, Inc.
26. Hitachi Group of Companies
27. HMC Sales & Service (Phils.)
28. Hycad Systems Engineering Pte. Ltd.
29. Ingasco, Inc.
30. Innove Communications, Inc.
31. Integrated Recycling Industries Philippines, Inc.
32. Integrated Waste Management, Inc.
33. Intel Technology Philippines, Inc.
34. InterCoastal International Technologies Corp.
35. Inzpect Technologies Incorporated (PESSA)
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37. Keithley Instruments, Inc.
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39. Kimberly-Clark Philippines
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41. Maxtronix, Inc. (PESSA)
42. Mesco, Inc.
43. Minami Machineries & Equipment, Inc. (PESSA)
44. National Instruments
45. Nupon Technology Philippines Corporation
46. Perkin Elmer Instruments Philippines Corporation
47. PHILAB-JEOL
48. Philippine Electronics and Semiconductor Suppliers Association
49. PLDT Business Solutions
50. Pro-Pack Materials Pte. Ltd.
51. PSi Technologies, Inc.
52. Quatek, Inc.
53. Questronix Corporation/ IBM/SAP
54. RNM Dynamics (Phils.), Inc.
55. Rohde & Schwarz (Philippines), Inc.
56. Schenker Philippines
57. Sensing Technology Corporation
58. Sertec International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd
59. Silicon Exponents Corporation (PESSA)
60. Sintron Systems, Inc. (PESSA)
61. Spectrum Scientific
62. Star Value Electronics, Inc.
63. SUSS MicroTec Co., Ltd.
64. Technology Edge, Inc.
65. Technology Plus Industries, Inc. (PESSA)
66. TechSource Systems Pte. Ltd.
67. Telesemi Corporation
68. Temic Automotive
69. Testech, Incorporated
70. Theo-Pam Trading Corporation
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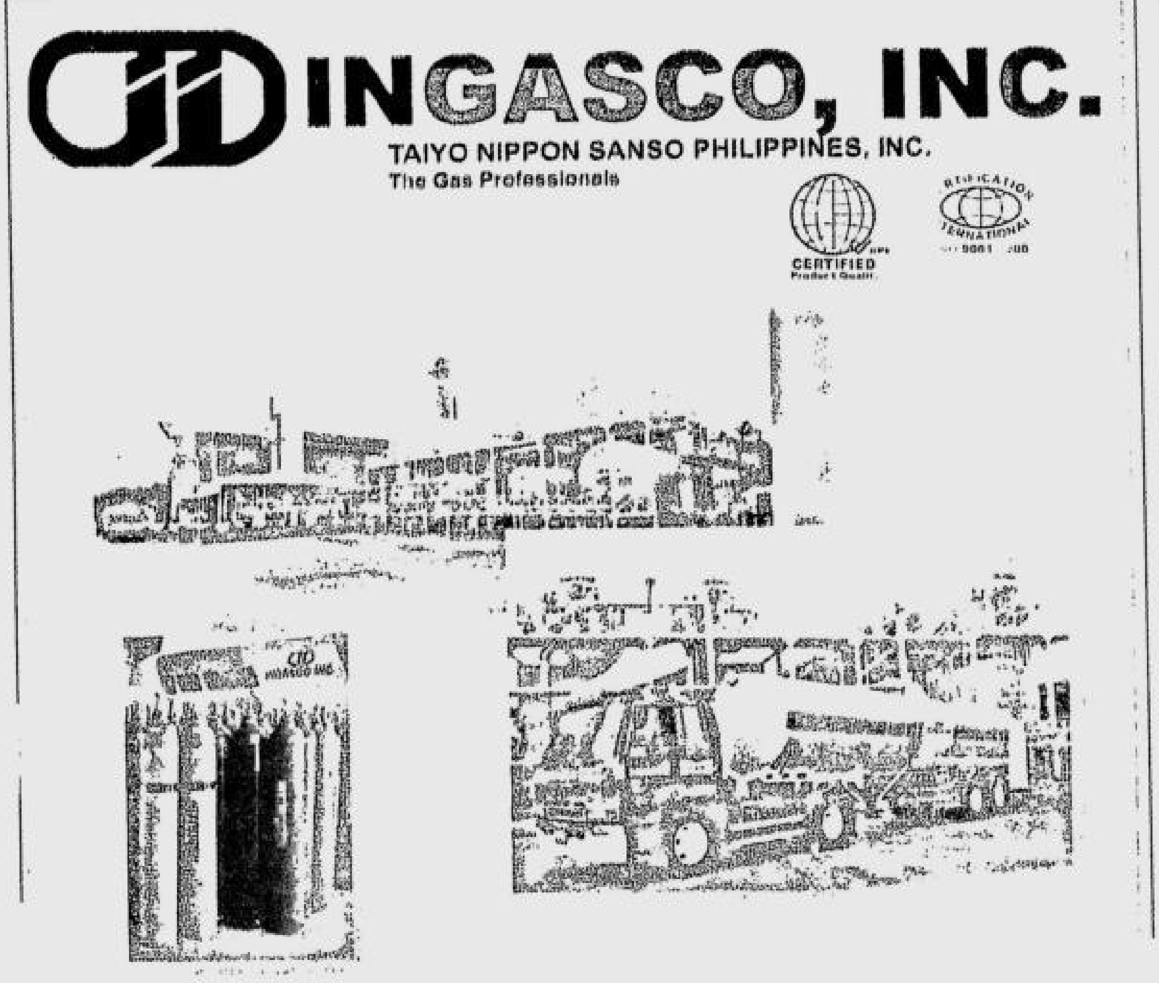

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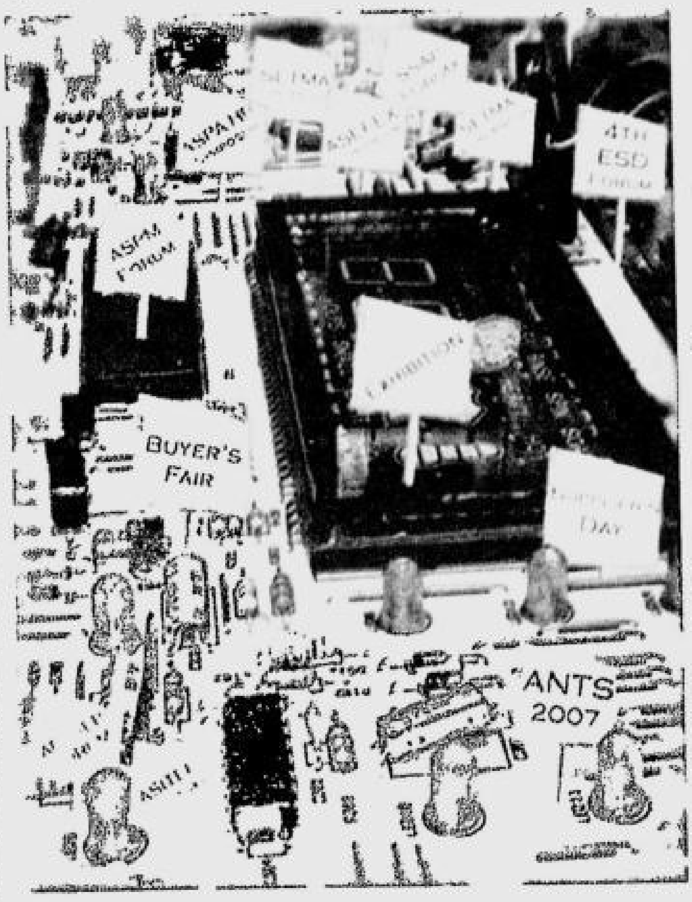

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Systems Failure Analysis Reliability
Venue Panay Room
Fellowship Night Closing
Venue Sunset Pavillion

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Pre-need sales up as of April

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SALES OF PRE-NEED FIRMS grew to P6.5 billion as of April this year, up 1.17 percent from P6.43 billion in the first four months last year.

Records from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed that pension plans accounted for the bulk of the sales at 61.2 percent.

But sales of pension plans dipped 3.1 percent to P3.98 billion from P4.11 billion last year.

Sales of life plans, on the other hand, rose 42 percent as of April to P1.26 billion from P887.1 million in the same period last year. Life plans accounted for 19.4 percent of total sales.

Education plans, which cornered 19.4 percent of total sales, fell 11.79 percent to P1.262 billion from January to April this year from P1.43 billion in the same period last year.

For April alone, sales of pre-need firms rose 3 percent to P1.245 billion, from P1.2 billion last year.

Pension plans, which accounted for 65 percent of sales, grew 20.5 percent to P808.86 million from P671.29 million in 2006.

Life plans, which cornered 23 percent of total sales, climbed 43.5 percent to P289.16 million in April from P201.5 million in the same month last year.

Education plans, which captured 11.8 percent of total sales, declined 56.2 percent to P147.19 million in April from P336.2 million in the same month last year.

RP products shine in HK

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has booked over P711 million in orders for Philippine fresh and processed agricultural products during its first participation in Hong Kong's largest food exhibit.

Agriculture Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the DA-led selling mission in the recently concluded Hofex 2007 managed to exceed its sales target of P500 million by 42 percent, despite the presence of big market competitors.

"The Philippine pavilion inside the Hong Kong Convention Centre was the only Asian booth located in the Grand Hall, where the booths of economic giants like the United States and Australia were also situated," said Romulo-Puyat in a statement.

The $15 million in booked and negotiated sales, according to Romulo-Puyat, were for 10 Filipino companies and organizations exporting fresh fruit products like mangoes, and processed foods such as sausages, potato chips, fruit cocktail and banana chips.

These companies include San Miguel Foods Inc., Alenter Foods Inc., Anjo Farms, Aras International Trading, CRD Herbal Products, Ilocos Food Products, Marzell Inc., Del Monte Corp., RFM Corp. and ZVG Farm Management.

Earlier, New Zealand-based importers and distributors pledged to buy over $30 million-worth of fresh and processed agro-fishery exports from the Philippines.

The DA's active participation in trade and selling missions across the globe this year is in line with its goal to open up new markets for fisherfolk and farmers.

Providing access to local and international markets is part of the department's program to sustain and accelerate farm growth and raise rural incomes.

BULLISH
TIMES THREE

Fund Name	Year-on-Year*	Year-to-Date**
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	74.26%	23.97%
Philam Strategic Growth Fund, Inc.	71.47%	22.89%
Philam Fund Inc.	62.96%	21.17%

*Net Asset Value Per Share performance as of: * June 15, 2006 - June 15, 2007 ** January 1 - June 15, 2007*
Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investors are advised to read the prospectus.

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PFA's 15th Pifce slated July 4 to 8

THE PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (PFA) is now gearing up for the country's biggest and longest-running franchise show, Franchise 2007, the 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (Pifce) scheduled from July 4 to 8 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko and at the World Trade Center Manila.

Franchise enthusiasts in the Philippines will get the opportunity to learn from local and international franchise gurus and experts at the one-stop-shop franchise show that offers four events in one: conference on July 4 and 5 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko; expo and franchise seminars from July 6 to 8 at the World Trade Center; and the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) program, a mini-MBA course on Franchise Management offered by the International Certified Franchise Executives on July 2 and 3 at the Asian Institute of Management.

For inquiries, call the PFA Secretariat at 687-0365 to 67, 0917-8320732, e-mail pfa@nwave.net or log on to www.philippine-franchiseassociation.com

Adopting the theme "Franchising: Key to Nation-building", Franchise 2007 aims to provide the latest trends and development in franchising from an array of local and international franchise gurus and experts. Topics for the two-day Conference on July 4 and 5 include "Overview of Franchising Today in the Philippines and Some Asean Countries"; "Relationships and Mentoring Programs"; "Emerging Markets in the Philippines"; "Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset"; "Managing the Supply Chain"; "How To Become A Worldclass Brand"; "How to Address Cultural Diversity"; "Professionalizing Family Corporation"; "Retaining Your Most Important Resource"; "Brand Building Blue Ocean Strategy"; "Best Practices by Winning Concepts"; and the Business Solution Roundtable Discussions.

Occupying two halls at the World Trade Center, the three-day franchise expo from July 6 to 8 will feature opportunities for SMEs, successful homegrown and international brands, allied and support services, emerging center for those who are interested to test the market, incubation area for the young entrepreneurs, all expected to bring franchising to the next level. At the PFA Lounge, visitors and franchise enthusiasts will have the opportunity to avail of free professional services on issues that include the legal aspects/requirements of franchising, intellectual property rights, taxation and other relevant matters pertaining to franchising.

Students and would-be entrepreneurs could also avail of the public seminars on July 6 at the Activity Area, World Trade Center. Topics include Franchising 101, How to Start a Business, Business Plan Preparation and Effective Energy Management. Those who wish to expand their business and wish to acquire a franchise may register in the "How to Franchise your Business" and "A to Z's of Buying the Right Franchise" seminars on July 7.

Franchise 2007 is being chaired by Elizabeth Orbeta, (Wendy's), and co-chaired by Jose Magsaysay Jr (Potato Corner). Joining the team are Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters), Conference Chair; Virgilio Espeleta (Julie's Bakeshop), co-chair; Lin Deres (Goldilocks), Expo Chair; Luke Tan (McDonald's), co-chair; Robert F. Trota (Max's), ways and means; Lerida Guzman (Max's) and Carlo de Guzman (Hotshots), program; Froilan Manotok (Red Ribbon) and director Aster Caberte (DTI-7), attendance promotion; Victor Paterno (7-11), suppliers; Rosemarie Lee (Memory Magic), emerging concepts; Eric Lim (Blims), malls, real estate developers; Rhea Limjoco (Global Franchise), academe; Noel Siggaoat (Francorp), professional and allied services; and Jay Aldeguer (Islands Souvenir), publicity and promotions.

Co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, Franchise 2007 is a joint undertaking by the PFA and the Department of Trade and Industry and supported by SeaOil, Coca Cola, Max's, 7-11, Goldilocks, Julie's Bakeshop, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Chowking, GoodAh, Crystal Clear, Felissa, Francorp, Montanara, Qualiplus, All Visuals, Del Monte and Sports House. Mall partners include Ayala Center, Shangri-la Malls and Robinsons Malls. Media partners include Entrepreneur Philippines, RJ100, Wave 89.1 and Heart 103.5.

JUS' 4 KIDS MEGAMALL SAMPLING
Pharmaceutical company Sydenham Laboratories Inc recently gave a special treat to mothers and their children during a three-day fair in SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Sydenham offered free samples of its health juice drink, Juslicious Jus' 4 Kids, to mothers and their kids and sponsored a coloring activity for them. Jus' 4 Kids is a natural fruit juice drink ideal for children up to 13 years old. The product has been approved by the Department of Health, through its Sangkap Pinoy Seal program, and the Bureau of Food and Drug. The juice is packed with Chlorella Growth Factor, which helps enhance children's growth, and Taurine, which enhances brain development. The drink is also fortified with Vitamins A, C, E, Zinc and Iodine to help strengthen a child's immune system. Jus' 4 Kids was recently cited by England-based publication Beverage Innovations as one of a growing number of vitamin-enriched health beverages worldwide that offer a multitude of health benefits. Jus' 4 Kids, which comes in mango and orange flavors, is available in leading supermarkets and other secondary outlets.

Marpe' Health Expo endorsed

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING brands on natural health products and therapies will be coming together this year to launch the first exposition on alternative health care products and services in the country.

"Marpe' Health Expo," a three-day exhibit and bazaar featuring natural health products and alternative healing therapies, will be held at the Megatrade Hall 1. Officially endorsed by the Department of Health, "Marpe' Health Expo" is organized by the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines (Chipi), the organization of companies engaged in the research and development, manufacturing, marketing and distribution of natural and herbal health products.

The word "Marpe'" is Hebrew for health and wellness, which the event aims to promote among Filipinos through the patronage of natural health products and therapies. Industry observers see "Marpe' Health Expo" as a milestone for the local herbal industry. Chipi believes that the Philippines can be a major global source of these products. In fact, many of its members are now into exports. The expo is expected to showcase how much improvement local herbal companies have accomplished in terms of quality and safety. All products to be exhibited are registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs; while healing therapies are approved by the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care, an inter-government agency under the auspices of the DOH. To further push the industry forward, Chipi plans to make "Marpe' Health Expo" an annual event.

The expo comes on the heels of a growing global demand for safe, natural health products, either for prevention or cure. "Marpe' Health Expo" is giving special discounts on select products or services. For interested parties, call the Chipi secretariat at 802-4807 or log on to www.chipi.org.ph.

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call **637-2008**

OBITUARIES

The Board of Directors, Management,
Officers and Staff of
Lorenzo Shipping Corporation

deeply mourn the demise of its President

CAPT. ROMEO "ROMY" LIWANAG MALIG

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 25 June 2007 at the age of 67.

His remains lie in state at the
Jose Rizal Chapel of La Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment is on 30 June 2007 at the Libingan ng mga
Bayani after the mass at 9 o'clock in the morning.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith."
(II Timothy 4:7)

JUANISTOR "JOHNNY" FERRER LOPEZ

died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on June 25, 2007 at the age of 81.

His wife **ESPERANZA** (†); children **Augusto** (†), **Jose Mari, Edmundo & Joyce, Gina & Aurelio Periquet III, Juan Nestor, Jr. & Carol**; grandchildren **Jamie & Joanna, Juancho & Cindy, Jonathan** and **Justin**, brothers, sisters and in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A FOREIGN-BASED COMPANY ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF FLAVORS FOR THE BISCUIT, ICE CREAM, PHARMACEUTICAL, SOFTDRINK, SNACKS AND OTHER FOOD INDUSTRIES IS LOOKING FOR:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

To handle Sales and Marketing of its products in the Philippines.

Qualifications:

1) EDUCATION:
- college graduate with background in foods and nutrition, chemistry or any related course

2) EXPERIENCE:
- strong background in the flavor/food ingredient business in the Philippines
- at least 2 years work exposure in said line of business

3) SPECIAL SKILLS and ATTITUDES
- energetic and flexible
- excellent in oral and written English communication skills
- good problem solving and analytical skills
- computer literate
- willing to undergo an extensive training program

Please send your resumé, a photocopy of transcript of records and 1 copy of 2" x 2" recent photograph to.

PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 12112
Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A FOREIGN-BASED COMPANY ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF FLAVORS FOR THE BISCUIT, ICE CREAM, PHARMACEUTICAL, SOFTDRINK, SNACKS AND OTHER FOOD INDUSTRIES IS LOOKING FOR:

SALES MANAGER

To handle Sales and Marketing of its products in the Philippines.

Qualifications:

1) EDUCATION:
- college graduate with background in foods and nutrition, chemistry or any related course

2) EXPERIENCE:
- strong background in the flavor business in the Philippines
- good knowledge of Philippines food industry and key account management experiences
- at least 5 years work exposure in said line of business

3) SPECIAL SKILLS and ATTITUDES
- energetic and flexible
- excellent in oral and written English communication skills
- good problem solving and analytical skills
- computer literate
- willing to undergo an extensive training program

Please send your resumé, a photocopy of transcript of records and 1 copy of 2" x 2" recent photograph to:

PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 12112
Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of requirements needed for the installation of Distribution Transformer intended for sole users, stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

BIDDING OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER

1. Transformer, Distribution, 1 – Ph, 25 KVA, 7620 / 13200 V GYPW, 240V SW, Oil immersed, Self Cooled, 60 Hz, Conventional, Double Bushing, Brand New, PCB Free, Preferred Brands: Philec, Wagner, Cooper, Hanyang with Standard Losses Requirements. 14 units
2. Same as Item No. 1 except 15 KVA, 240 V SW 4 units
3. Same as Item No. 1 except 37.5 KVA, 240 V SW 4 units
4. Same as Item No. 1 except 50 KVA, 240 V SW 4 units

NOTE : Manufacturers / Suppliers are required to submit the following documents to qualify:

a. Manufacturer's affidavit authorizing a named representative to offer its product.
b. Manufacturer's Product Warranty and After Sales Certificates
c. Importation documents with proof of payment of taxes and duties
d. Quality Test report / certificate

Pre-qualification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MS. MARILOU N. VERGARA, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines.

Submission of Pre-qualification Documents – July 02-06, 2007
Bid Documents are available beginning – July 09-12, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference – July 12, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

A Bid Bond of at least 2.5% of Total Bid Price is required, either in form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check or Surety Bond.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (045) 923-0460 or Fax No. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) **MARILOU N. VERGARA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–June 27 & 30, 2007)

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Smart Mothers & Others Earn $$$, US Co. Needs 5 Key Individuals, PT? FT, Triana 09178101851

Self-Adjudication
Informing Public; Real Property of SPS. Pedro Ocampo (died) (8/2/95) & Maria Ocampo (died) (3/15/03) Located at 6 V. Luciano Proj. 4 Quezon City [TCT# 86884 [96608] is Extra-Judicially Settled by Sole Legitimate heir Amelia Ocampo - Sealtiel to herself per legal doc Dated June 7, 2007 Notarized on June 7, 2007 said property is sold to SPS. Emelino & Maritess Maestro. For Info. 0916-3739428 / 0922-8620922

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C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., Dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St., Makati City; #15 Gen. Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan, Taguig; Real St., Almanza Uno, Las Piñas City will hold an auction sale on June 30, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. including all items pawned up to January 2007
V. Zamora Jr. – Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI–June 27, 2007)

unicef UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT *(Education Section)*

This office-based post primarily provides secretarial assistance for the Education Section as well as support to the HIV/AIDS Specialist.

Main functions/duties include: (1) Provide administrative and secretarial support in the organization of section activities, events, meetings, workshops including venue and travel arrangement and preparation of programme/meeting kits. (2) Assist the supervisor and the members of the section in the preparation of fund releases and payment requests; in the monitoring of outstanding cash advances to government and other partners. (3) Assist in gathering reports/other background information for use in country programme documents, reports, briefing kits, other materials.

Essential qualifications:

- *Completion of college education in any social science or business field.*
- *Proven typing ability and knowledge of modern office procedures.*
- *Knowledge of computer operations.*
- *Four years secretarial experience.*
- *Very good command of English and Filipino languages, both oral and written*

Please send cover letter and curriculum vitae before 6 July 2007 to:
The HR UNIT through e-mail: gpfernandez@unicef.org
We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.

JOB HIRING

POSITIONS

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
DEPUTY MANAGER FOR ADMINISTRATION
DEPUTY MANAGER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
DEPUTY MANAGER ACCOUNTING
PROCUREMENT MANAGER
DEPUTY MANAGER PROCUREMENT
DEPUTY MANAGER CUSTOMS
DEPUTY MANAGER FOR SUBCONTRACT
SENIOR SHIP DESIGN ENGINEER
PRINCIPAL SHIP DESIGN ENGINEER
ASSEMBLY AND FABRICATION MANAGER
MANAGER FOR QUALITY CONTROL
MANAGER FOR PRODUCTION OUTFITTING
MANAGER FOR PRODUCTION HULL
MANAGER FOR BUDGET AND PLANNING
MANAGER FOR FACILITY
MANAGER FOR GENERAL AFFAIR
MANAGER FOR SAFETY
MANAGER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SENIOR TRAINER
ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR TRAINING CENTER
TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

QUALIFICATIONS

- GRADUATE OF ENGINEERING OR BUSINESS COURSE
- HIGHLY COMPUTER LITERATE
- MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH AUTOCAD PROGRAM
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- WITH 10-15 YEARS SHIP BUILDING EXPERIENCE
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Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Baguio Economic Zone Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 447-3331; 447-3683; 447-3328; 447-3329; 447-3333
Telefax: 447-3330

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of P6,421,105.20 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Security Services Requirement of PEZA. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Delivery of the goods is required for one (1) year. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 1380). Only Bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Prospective bidders must have a minimum of three (3) years experience (Resolution No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024) in providing security services and should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years (Res. No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024) with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC.

Bidders should not have any existing security services contract with any of PEZA's locators to avoid conflict of interest.

In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS), of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and purchased by interested Bidders from 05 to 16 July 2007 (Res. No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024), Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000.00) and submission of a certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Registration Certificate. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PEZA will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on 16 July 2007 (Res. No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024) at 10:00 am, on the 3rd Floor, BCEZ Conference Room, PEZA Administration Building, Loakan Road, Baguio City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:30 am of 27 July 2007 (Res. No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024). All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on 27 July 2007 (Res. No. BCEZ-BAC 2007-024), 10:00 am on the 3rd Floor, BCEZ Conference Room, PEZA Administration Building, Loakan Road, Baguio City. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative, who choose to attend.

In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
PEZA, Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 447-3683; 447-4155
Email: bcez@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) ATTY. RENE U. BAYSA
BAC Chairman

PEZA, Roxas Blvd., cor San Luis St.
Pasay City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 551-34-36; 34-48

"Creating products for the World"
"Gawa ng Pilipino para sa mundo"

(PDI--June 20 & 27, 2007)

OBITUARIES

"For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain"
– Phil. 1:21

Our Dearly Beloved

BANDELROA "ELRING" BLANCAFLOR BAGASIN

who was born May 30, 1929, peacefully joined our Creator on June 3, 2007.

She departed her loving husband, **IRENEO**; her children and their spouses: **Samy & Glecy, Betsy & Eddie, Junior & Myrna, Jerry & Luz, Abe & Nethe, Noemi & Clyde, Joel & Arlene**; her grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Her remains lie at the Central United Methodist Church, T.M. Kalaw St., Malate, Manila.

Necrological Services will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2007, 7 p.m. at the Main Sanctuary.

Interment will be on July 2, 2007, 11:30 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 9 a.m. memorial service.

REMEMBERING THE MAN

on his 23rd Death Anniversary

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

(August 23, 1910 – June 27, 1984)

Philanthropist. Industrialist.
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino.

Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.

Let the light of education shine across the land!

Menzi Graduates 2007

Bachelor's Degree

Hernani B. Catacutan – **Magna Cum Laude**	BS Electronics & Communications Eng'g	Holy Angel University – Angeles City
Arnie S. Jamolin – **Cum Laude**	BS Agriculture	West Visayas State University
Louie A. Garcia	BS Accountancy	San Beda College – Manila
Jerald F. Marquez	BS Accountancy	De La Salle University – Manila
Rodney A. Regalado	BS Accountancy	Central Philippine University
Reymar B. Canque	BS Civil Engineering	University of Southern Mindanao
William M. Opriasa	BS Civil Engineering	Davao Oriental State College of Science & Technology
Dario P. Albardonido	BS Commerce	University of Cebu
Mashod I. Aksah	BS Computer Engineering	Ateneo de Zamboanga University
Romeo A. Angeles, Jr.	BS Computer Science	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
Karlyle P. Tangonan	BS Computer Science	De La Salle University – Dasmariñas
Alter N. Tolentino	BS Computer Science	Western Mindanao State University
Joe Carlo T. Calub	BS Nursing	San Pedro College – Davao

Technological

Franklin I. Cañete	Associate in Electronics Engineering	College of Technological Sciences – Cebu
Edmund Paul V. Lacson	Associate in Computer Science	Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf – Quezon City
Ruel U. Alon	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Jose B. Custodio, Jr.	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Alejandro S. Duarte, Jr.	Automobile Mechanic	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Jamil S. Avecilla	Fitter Machinist	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Laurence D. Estrada	Industrial Electronics	Don Bosco Technical Institute – Makati
Joey N. Bagulo	One-Year Technical-Vocational Course	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Ernesto L. Balwarte	One-Year Technical-Vocational Course	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Elizer C. Garcia, Jr.	One-Year Technical-Vocational Course	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Richard V. Gomez	One-Year Technical-Vocational Course	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Bryan B. Sumaoy	One-Year Technical-Vocational Course	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati

Successful Board Examinees

Jedhan U. Galula – **5th Placer**	Veterinarian	Central Mindanao University
Paul Anthony R. Velasco	Veterinarian	Pampanga Agricultural College
Peregrin L. Horlina	Agriculturist	Cagayan State University
Rowin C. Roluna	Civil Engineer	Central Mindanao University
Hensen Bob R. Aguinalde	Registered Nurse	Saint Louis University
Jerwin L. Jacoba	Registered Nurse	Sacred Heart College – Lucena City
Ronald H. Libodlibod	Seafarer	University of Cebu – METC

A Special Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today at the Menzi head office
20/F Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The Menzi family requests friends and pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

Capt. Romeo Liwanag Malig, PN (Ret.)

of Parañaque City

joined his Creator on June 25, 2007 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Diana F. Malig**, children **Sue Ann & Reggie**, **Mary Lou**, grandchild **Sydney**, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 30, 2007 at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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FORT BONIFACIO
w/in Fort Bonifacio Global City

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LAWN_R	2.44 sqm	P 59,500
LAWN_ESP	2.44 sqm	P 72,200
GARDEN	19.52 sqm	P 627,000
FAMILY	39.04 sqm	P 2,700,850

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Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370
Kalaw:
528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall:
635-0219; 635-0220

"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on the rock and gave me a firm place to stand." **Psalm 40:1-2**

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
MOTORING
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Watch out for the Chinese cars

CHINA'S Chery officials have something to smile about now that their QQ3 (shown above) as well as their other popular vehicle models are now entering the Philippine market.

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

WUHU, CHINA—AS Chery Automobile Co. enters the Philippine market, one nagging question comes to mind: Could China's largest independent automaker pose a serious challenge to the market dominance long-enjoyed by the Japanese?

More popular for introducing the cute QQ brand of cars that now dominate the subcompact, compact and hatchback segment in China, Chery said it is confident it will earn the Filipino consumer's confidence and trust.

"We believe we've got the goods to back it up," Chery International GM Lin Zhang told the INQUIRER during an interview held in this city (some 400 km west of Shanghai) where the company is based.

In fact, Lin is so convinced of the positive response that Chery will be bringing in to the Philippines five of its popular models—the QQ3 hatchback, A5 full-size sedan, Cowin mid-size sedan, V5 multipurpose vehicle and the Tiggo compact sport utility vehicle.

No worry

"The Philippine market should not worry—we're bringing Chinese cars that are beautiful, luxurious, built in state-of-the-art facilities, and we're going to sell them for far less than the competition," promised Tito Yupangco, dealership network manager of Iseway Motors Philippines, Chery's exclusive distributor in the Philippines.

The price advantage, Yupangco explained, is partly because of Chery's base of low-cost suppliers as well as China's cheap labor costs.

"No wonder the vehicles that will be coming in have more safety features as well as more environmentally compliant than their competition," he said.

For years, Chery has been one of China's fast-growing industries that have been fighting consumer perception that regarded Chinese brands as cheap, unreliable and of poor quality.

"For years, Chery has been narrowing the car-making technology gap with the world's top automakers as well as acquiring assets from overseas to make us competitive not only here in China but eventually elsewhere in the world," Lin said.

To prove his point, Lin let a select group of media from the Philippines to tour Chery's sprawling (56 hectares) manufacturing plant that is capable of annually producing 700,000 vehicle units as well as 400,000 engines and 300,000 transmissions.

Paying off

It seemed Chery's efforts is paying off: monthly sales statistics in China last March showed that the company was able to rank first with the joint ventures of Shanghai General Motors, Shanghai Volkswagen, and First Automotive Works Corp.-Volkswagen settling for second, third and fourth places, respectively.

Lin added that Chery is expected to produce 500,000 vehicles this year of which 100,000 will be exported (compared to the 50,000 exported from last year's 300,000 vehicles produced).

"For years, Volkswagen has been the biggest overseas automaker in China. However, we should also consider that this company has been a player in the Chinese market since 1985, while Chery only started making cars in 2003. Indeed, these past few years have been exciting for Chery and we are glad to have them in the Philippines," Yupangco informed.

EVERYTHING is moving up for Chery now that its products are being exported to more than 40 countries.

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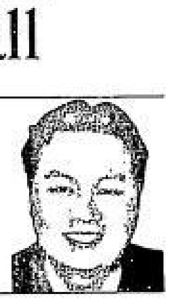
The writing on the wall

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma



GASOLINE PRICES ARE KILLING ME. Each time I drive up to the pump for a tank of gas, I want to break down and cry. I've yet to see a motorist ecstatic to load up on P40 per liter of gasoline. Looking around at stations, haven't you noticed that the only happy faces are those of the attendants? Go figure this out.

Fossil fuels are an everyday necessity—that is an indisputable fact that many don't want to face. We want to believe that there are magical solutions to our dependency on petroleum products. Have you heard the one about the mad scientist out there makes a car that runs on tap water or Diet Coke and Mentos?

Someone swears they've seen it on the Discovery Channel or their mom knows a friend whose third cousin's wife's hairstylist says they saw it. The stories are getting that kooky, honestly. I hate to break the news to the motoring public but commuting on a tank of Maynilad juice or fizzy cola is, for all intents and purposes, science fiction. But there are substitutes to petroleum products looming on the horizon.

Quick overview

The choices for the future are many. A few of the mainstream solutions are listed below. Think of this as a quick overview to what your motoring future may hold.

Gasoline electric hybrids come to mind as the quickest solution as they are being sold in first world markets already. As tempting as they may look, there is a small hitch in their concept. Care to take a guess, ladies and gentlemen? It's just that fossil fuels are still used to charge the battery banks of these cars in many cases.

Without a helping of gasoline, the hybrid becomes useless. You will have to gas up that shiny new Prius or Civic Hybrid eventually. This poses a problem in the long term as demand is ever present. Let us not forget that we are dealing with a forever dwindling supply too. Come on, you know the black stuff will dry up sooner or later.

What about purely electric vehicles then, are they the silver bullet we need? If and only if we are ready to rethink the way we use and look at our cars. The fact of the matter is simply this. Substantial time is spent plugged into an energy source in order to charge the massive batteries of these vehicles.

Whether you plug the car into an electrical socket at home or leave it under the sun because of the solar panels on its roof, you will have to wait for the batteries to top off. Freedom from pump prices can be had, but at the price of everyday utility.

The matter of hydrogen

Then there is the matter of hydrogen, forgive the pun. The move by the major manufacturers is to go the way of the fuel cell system. This method of generating power sounds simple actually. In an alchemist's black box lined with platinum as some sources say, mix hydrogen and oxygen. Almost magically, electricity is produced and used to run a motor. Clean water is expelled in the exhaust pipes and released into the environment. True green power is at hand. Great then, let's order a couple of million units then?

Here's the hitch. The long-term, all-conditions viability of this system is still being engineered. Current fuel cell systems must deal with relatively short-service lives, the lack of a hydrogen refueling infrastructure and buggy issues about operating temperatures. Add to this the fact that all this cutting-edge technology is quite expensive. Give it a few years, say the experts. I say trouble-free, mass market roll out in 30 years conservatively. Don't hold your breath.

It really does not matter what element, mineral, plant or animal by-product will allow us to motor into tomorrow—as long as it is a renewable resource. Critical here is that we need an alternative and we needed it yesterday. We can play the pundit all we want but only one thing looks certain in the future. It pains me to have to admit this but internal combustion engine's days look quite numbered. Please join me in a moment of silence.

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Automakers, environmentalists clash over fuel consumption

By Tessa R. Salazar

Conclusion

LOS ANGELES—THE UNION OF Concerned Scientists said: "We cannot simply drill our way out of our current gasoline supply woes—attempting to do so will increase the strain on our environment, and there isn't enough domestic oil to make a significant dent in prices."

For example, opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling today won't produce oil for another eight to 10 years, and even then will only provide a drop in the bucket compared with the rising demand, UCS added.

A top executive of an American car company who refused to be quoted said, "You can't force the manufacturer and retailer to change consumer preference and demand. Why do European consumers buy B and C cars, and not SUVs? Look at the price of gas and diesel (bloated by government taxes), the quality of their complementing and competing mass transportation system and size of the land mass. Same goes for Japan and Korea (which lacks good mass transportation)."

"To a lesser degree, the same phenomenon is true when comparing Canada and the United States. The price of gas in Canada has always been significantly higher than in the States, which is why the C-car, Small SUV and Minivan segments represent a higher proportion of the industry," the executive added.

"The Philippine market is no different; high gas prices, high demand for B and C cars. Keep diesel prices low or subsidize them and guess what happens—diesel-powered AUV sales. This isn't rocket science. It's simple supply and demand and price elasticity."

Pony vs battery pack

"Just do the math—a $1 per gallon price increase will cost the average driver about an extra $500 for gas each year. I just checked Kelly Blue Book, do you know that you can buy a V6 Mustang convertible (at 28 mpg) for the same price as a Toyota Prius (51 mpg). At $3 a gallon, US consumers won't be trading in their Ponies for a battery pack any time soon," the American car company executive said.

Stone said, "We don't really know where the threshold of change is. American consumers have never been to this point before. But some are already thinking about it at the $3-3.50 level. And the more expensive it gets, the more who will think about it actively. I think it's about $5 per gallon before people make sweeping changes in what they drive."

Automakers, however, aren't waiting for that time to come before working on their own alternative fuel-powered vehicles.

General Motors has told INQUIRER Motoring that it is redoubling its efforts to displace traditional petroleum-based fuels by building vehicles that run on alternative fuels.

It also cited its two-mode hybrid systems on full-size SUVs, the development of fuel-cell technology, a plug-in hybrid version of the next-generation Saturn Vue Green Line and its development of the Chevrolet Volt Concept—a battery-powered, four-passenger sedan powered by E-flex, GM's next-generation electric propulsion system.

Optimistic

Toyota, meanwhile, said that if US law will require Cafe at 35 mpg, it could very easily attain this level before 2020.

According to Toyota, as of 2006, Toyota's Cafe is 34.6 and 34.7 mpg for the imported and domestic passenger cars, respectively—above the current standard of 27.5 mpg, and already very close to the proposed Senate bill.

The LA Times published an Associated Press report June 14 that senators close to the auto industry released their proposal, which they say automakers can achieve, unlike a plan already in the overall energy bill. And that the substitute calls for increasing auto fuel economy by 30 percent to 36 miles per gallon by 2022 and for sport utility vehicles and small trucks to reach 30 mpg by 2025. "It will force industry to bend and not break," said Sen. Kit Bond, D-Mo.

The CR-V crosses over

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE THIRD GENERATION HONDA CR-V, launched in Manila last March, retains its Comfortable Runabout Vehicle DNA but now assumes a premium crossover aura.

Let's see why Honda Cars Philippines is marketing the 2007 CR-V as "the premium crossover SUV."

Premium design makeover

The CR-V's full model change is distinguished by a boldly re-sculpted body, a double-layer grille, a sloping, arched roof, curvaceous window line, short hood and small overhang fore and aft. Larger 17-inch wheels, wider treads and lower (by 20 mm) ground clearance give the CR-V more attitude aside from a lower center of gravity that improves stability on the road. On the other hand, the trade-off is reduced off-road capability for the 4WD model.

A lift gate replaces the side-hinged tailgate. With the spare tire under the cargo floor instead of mounted on the tailgate, the new CR-V is three inches shorter and easier to park. Projector-type headlights with HID and auto leveling of the 2.4-liter model enhance the premium look.

Premium spaciousness

The two-tone dashboard, dark upper and beige lower, increases the ambience of spaciousness. Since the floor is flat and the rear seat has a slide and recline function, three adults are comfortably accommodated there. The rear seat splits 60/40 and can be folded flat to increase cargo space from 35.7 to 72.9 cubic feet. In the 2.4 CR-V, the cargo area is dual-decked, with the detachable upper deck serving as a tonneau cover that can carry loads up to 10 kg.

Although the driver's seat is positioned high to give a commanding view of the road, power adjustment is not available. In this aspect, the new CR-V is not premium.

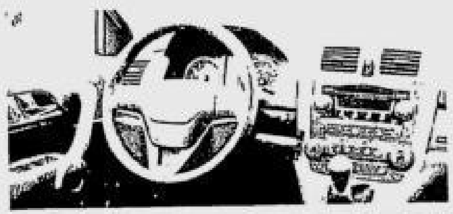
The gear lever on the dash and the foot-operated parking brake in the automatic transmission (AT) CR-V provide a flat empty space between the front seats where you can conveniently place personal items. Not that the CR-V lacks cubbyholes. Aside from a two-level glove box, there are 15 utility storage bins and pockets, six cupholders and up to three power access points.

An optitron meter with LCD display offers helpful info such as instantaneous and average fuel consumption and possible remaining cruising distance, enabling you to adjust your driving style accordingly. The CR-V earns a premium point here as it is a standard feature only usually found in luxury cars.

An in-dash CD player (six-disc changer in the 2.4 model), external auxiliary jack and blue and white ambient lighting of the meters and switches complete the interior package.

Performance

The 4WD CR-V (P1.450 million) has a new 2.4-liter DOHC i-VTEC, 16-valve engine producing 170 ps/5,800 rpm and 22.2 kg-m/4,200 rpm max torque through a 5-speed AT. While I found the horsepower adequate, it wasn't exciting. But then the CR-V was not designed to excite. It is a pleasant, family-oriented wagon, not a high-performance car.



THE COCKPIT of the 2007 CR-V

(PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA)

THE NEW CR-V's boldly re-sculpted body

The 2WD CR-V (P1.190 million for the 6-speed MT, P1.250 million for the AT), equipped with a 2.0-liter SOHC i-VTEC,16-valve powerplant capable of 150 ps/6,200 rpm and 19.4 kg-m/4,200 rpm peak torque, is even blander. When you step on the gas (I test-drove both the 2.0 liter MT and the 2.4 AT), the engine lags before picking up speed.

On the other hand, handling is premium grade. The '07 CR-V handles almost as nimbly as a sport sedan, tackling corners with minimal body lean due to stabilizer bars front and rear, a reworked suspension (refined MacPherson strut up front, multi-link double wishbone at the back), improved body rigidity and a lower center of gravity. Both the 5-speed AT and 6-speed MT shift between gears smoothly.

Ride quality is more carlike than ever with a low NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) level. But if the CR-V is driven hard, the NVH level goes up. On C-5, when I hit 120 km per hour (kph) in the 2.4-liter CR-V, my rear seat passenger began complaining about the bumpy ride. Which goes to show that the CR-V is really meant for easy, pleasant driving with a light foot on the accelerator.

Safety

While the 2.4 CR-V sold here comes with four airbags and Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) the 2.0 CR-V has two airbags and no VSA.

All CR-V versions, however, have four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, EBD and Brake Assist, keyless entry, alarm system, rear-parking sensors and pretensioner seatbelts for the front seats. In the United States, the CR-V has six airbags and earned five stars in the frontal and side-impact ratings of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and was a "Top Safety Pick" of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Summing up

The new 2.4 CR-V is premium when it comes to interior and exterior design, cargo room, handling and safety. While it is not so premium in terms of power, the pluses still outweigh the minuses to give it an overall premium score.

***

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Life is too complicated in the morning.

PRIUS

Toyota worldwide hybrid sales top 1M units

TOKYO—TOYOTA MOTOR Corp. recently announced that global cumulative sales of Toyota hybrid vehicles have topped the 1 million mark, with approximately 1,047,000 units sold worldwide as of May 31, 2007.

Toyota launched the Prius—the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle—in Japan in 1997 and began selling it in North America, Europe and elsewhere in 2000.

Performance, power

The second-generation Prius, equipped with the Toyota Hybrid System 2, was introduced in 2003 with an emphasis on delivering both environmental performance and power. Over time, Toyota has expanded the use of its hybrid system to minivans, SUVs, rear-wheel-drive sedans and other vehicles. Hybrid vehicles have been enjoying good sales both in Japan and in over 40 countries and regions around the world, particularly North America.

Toyota began overseas production of hybrid vehicles in Changchun, China in 2005 and in Kentucky in the United States in 2006.

CO_2 emissions reduced

Toyota has calculated that as of April 30, 2007, worldwide sales of its hybrid vehicles since 1997 have greatly contributed to reductions in CO_2 emissions, which are considered a cause of global warming, by producing approximately 3.5 million fewer tons of CO_2 compared with the same class gasoline-powered vehicles of similar size and driving performance.

Toyota has positioned environmental responses as a priority management issue, and as such has made a concerted effort to popularize hybrid systems. It will actively continue to find ways to utilize the system's high degree of applicability to double its hybrid lineup and will aim to achieve annual sales of 1 million units in the early part of the 2010s.

Stretching the 2007 Alterra's limits

FOR ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP, NOTHING is more convincing than putting its vehicles to test on real-world conditions.

So when the company officials wondered how far their best-selling 2007 Alterra would go on just one full tank of diesel, they decided on driving all the way to Mindanao (of course, with the help of "ro-ros" to hop from one island to the next).

"The ro-ros perfectly complemented this Isuzu's latest campaign called 'Isuzu Alterra rolls on and off to Mindanao with Shell Diesoline Ultra' which not only promoted local tourism but also showed how to efficiently drive your vehicle around the Philippines," said IPC president Keiji Takeda who together with Isuzu Motors Ltd. (Japan) director and senior executive Naotoshi Tsutsumi flagged off the participants from the Batangas pier.

When local motoring media people reached Calapan, they then drove to Roxas where they took another ro-ro ride going to Caticlan and then to Kalibo, Aklan.

Recreational trips

"With this event, Isuzu showed the motoring public that the ro-ro is not just for transporting commercial goods but also for making recreational trips," said IPC vice president for corporate business Art Balmadrid.

The following day, the group drove to Iloilo and then to Dumangas Pier, where they took the ro-ro for Bacolod. In Bacolod, the motoring journalists took the time to do their requisite *pasalubong* shopping and the Alterras proved spacious enough for all the items that they bought.

From Bacolod, the group embarked on a four-hour evening drive to Dumaguete.

"During this stretch, the participants appreciated the 2007 Alterra's features that made nighttime driving both safe and easy. With its new headlamps and fog lamps, driving safety is much improved by providing better lighting for driving at night. Also, the new Optitron instrument panel effectively displays essential data including outside temperature and fuel consumption without irritating or tiring the eyes. The soft glow of the gauges is refreshing to the sight, guaranteeing a rested pair of eyes even after a long evening drive," described IPC's Timmy Naval.

Final destination

On the third day, the motoring journalists again took the ro-ro for Dipolog, with their final destination being the Dakak Park Beach Resort in Taguilon, Dapitan City.

Here, the group spent the night before returning to Manila the next day (via airplane) while the event's official shipping line, 2GO, took care of transporting the fleet of Alterras back to Manila.

"Throughout the entire event, Isuzu was able to impress local townsfolk with its go-anywhere Alterra. The diesel authority also succeeded in showing people that the Philippines is a beautiful country for tourism and that anyone need not spend a lot to be able to visit scenic places even in far-flung Mindanao," added IPC's Ronald Baladad.

Best of all, Baladad informed that the event proved how fuel-efficient the 2007 Isuzu Alterra is. The Alterra was able to complete the nearly 700-km journey on just one full tank of Shell Diesoline Ultra with Biodiesel. "Which only proved Filipinos do not have to burn a hole in their wallets just to tour their own country," Baladad said.

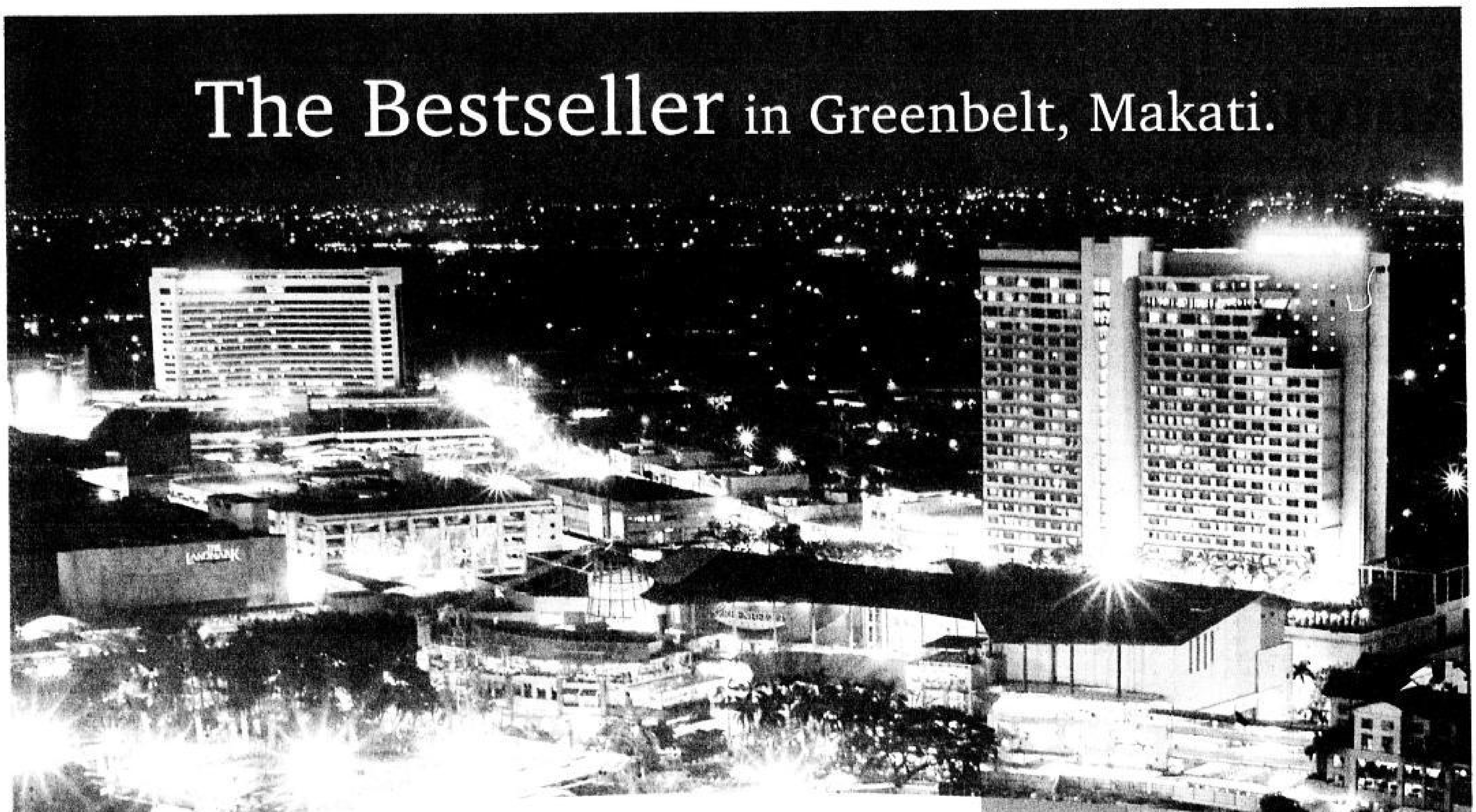
THESE 2007 Alterras were able to run from Batangas pier in Luzon down to Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte, Mindanao with just a full tank of diesel.

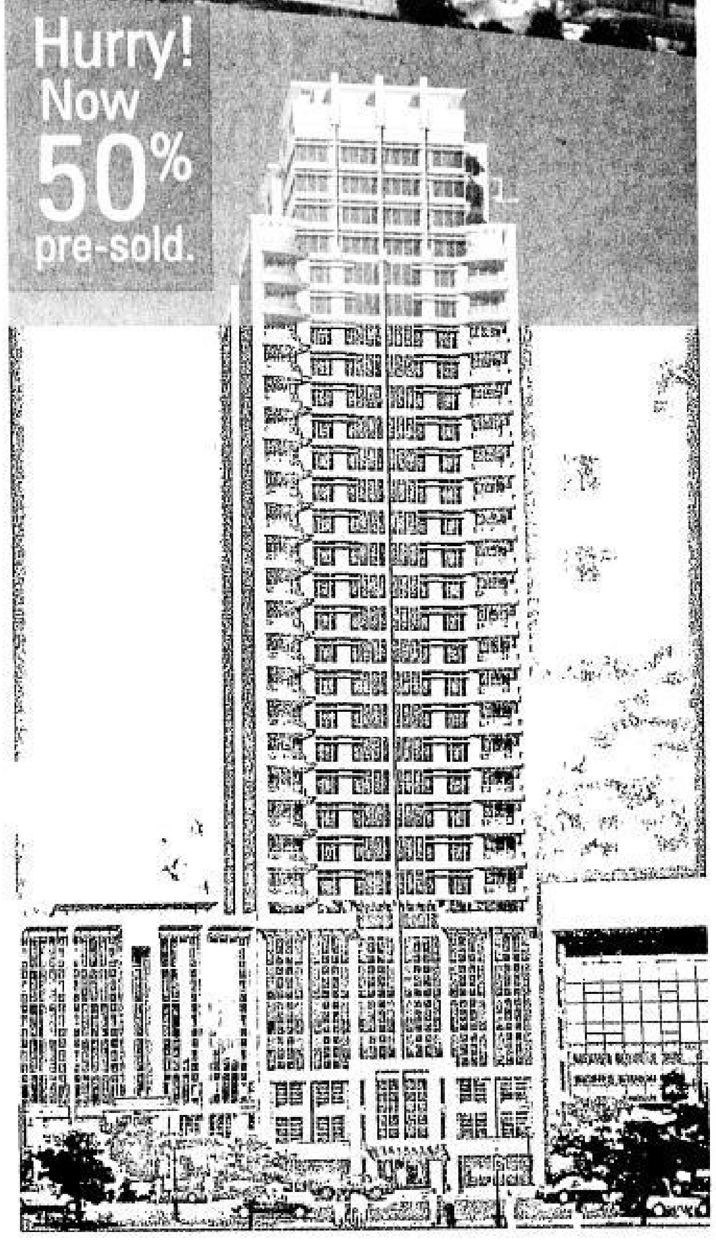
In fact, Vehicle 3 used by the team of Ron delos Reyes and Ronald Rey de los Reyes ("Auto Review"), Paulo Subido (Top Gear) and Raul Promeda ("Motoring Today"/Auto Focus) consumed more or less only half tank of Shell Diesoline Ultra with Biodiesel.

Naval informed that the said Shell Diesoline used has been reformulated with one percent Coco Methyl Ester (CME) biofuel component in compliance with the Biofuels Act of 2006. "The base fuel has been refined to be clean and pure, hence delivering superior engine protection, reduced emissions, and improved performance and fuel economy of our Alterras."

Balmadrid said, with the event IPC hoped to inspire more Filipinos to visit the many picturesque places down south. "Of course, we also hope that they will take the 2007 Alterra with them because it really is the best vehicle to treat the whole family to a worry-free and very comfortable holiday vacation outside of Metro Manila."

The Bestseller in Greenbelt, Makati.

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Greenbelt Chancellor is indeed the perfect choice for those looking for a condo in an unbeatable location. But there are other very good reasons why it's become the biggest buzz among property hunters. For one, its executive studios to three-bedroom suites come pre-furnished with first-rate furniture and home appliances. Then, too, wide windows bring you stunning views of Greenbelt and the city. And you can relax in private at the seventh-level play deck, with its lap pool, fitness center, spa and lush garden.

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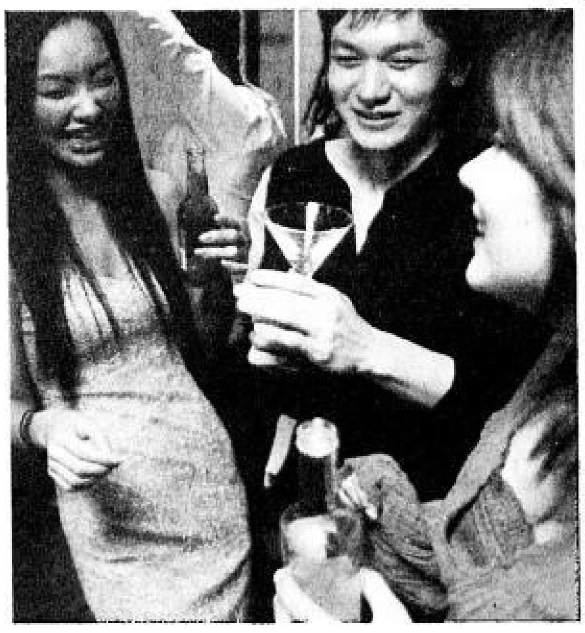

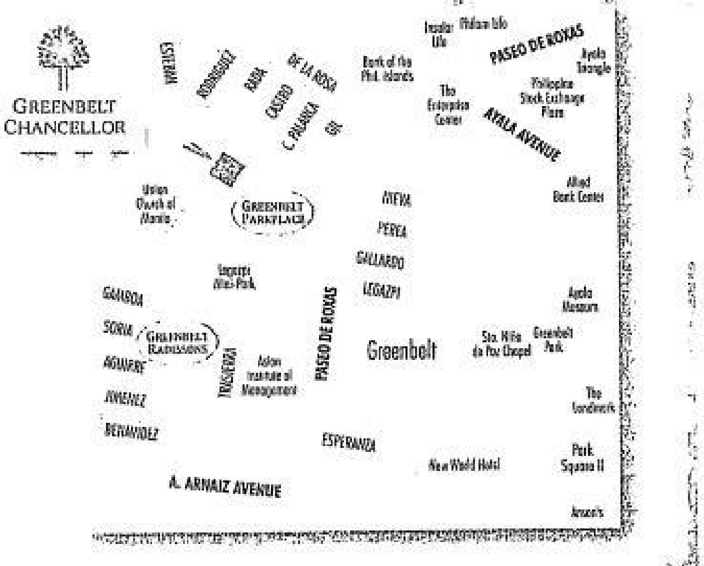
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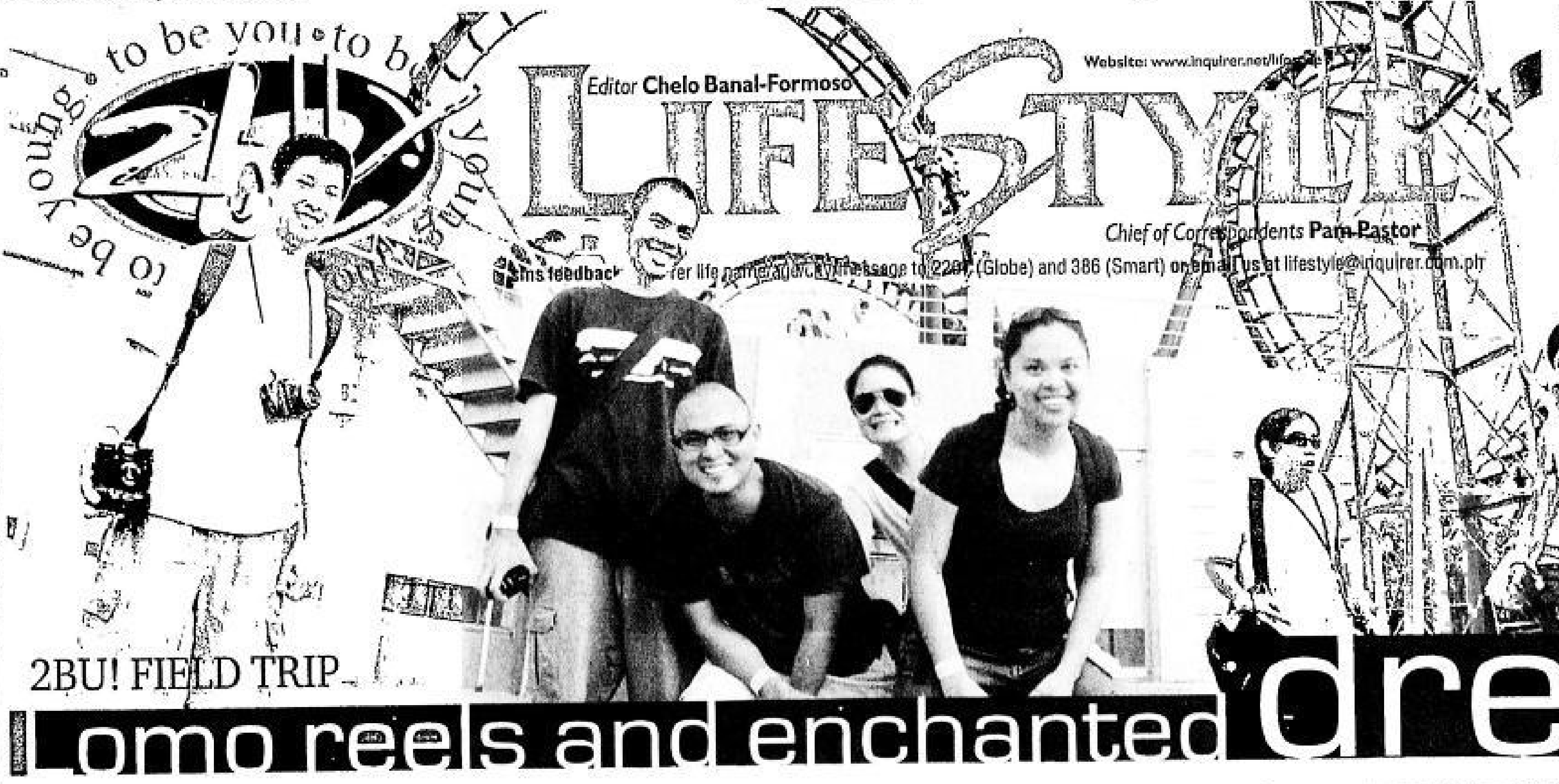
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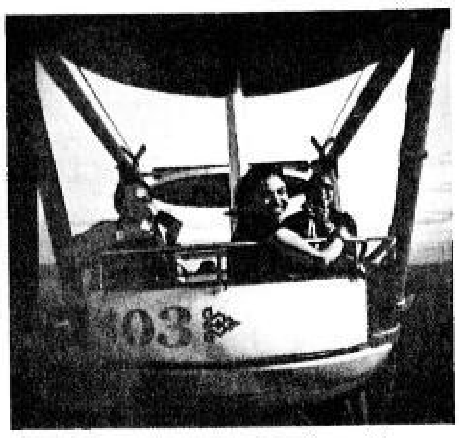
See flyers for details. Promo runs from June 23 to July 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2816. Series of 2007.

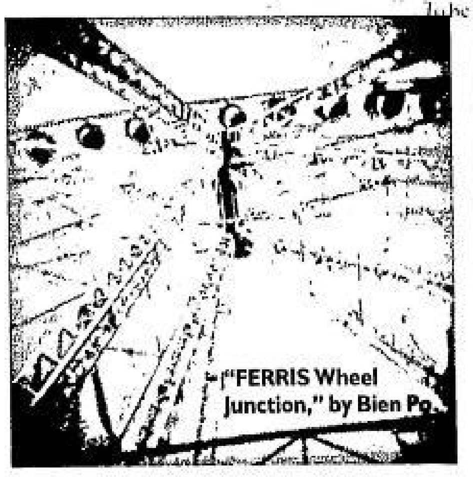
SMART TAYO



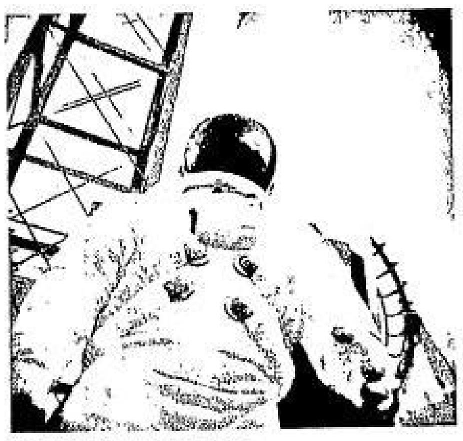
"RIDING the Wheel," by Zoe Ezequiel

"RED People," by Ezequiel

"FABIO," by Jill Lejano



"FERRIS Wheel Junction," by Bien Po



"SPACE Out," by Lejano

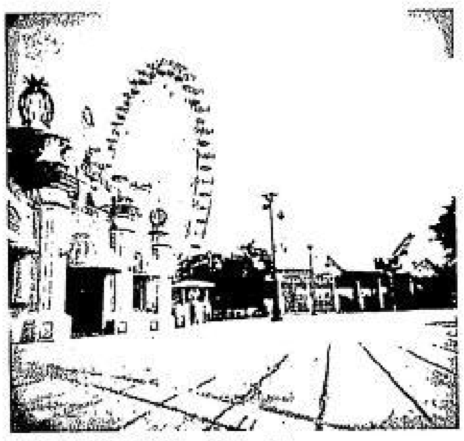
"NY, Cubao," by Lejano

"ENCHANTED on Lights," by Po

2BU! FIELD TRIP

Lomo feels and enchanted dreams

by [illegible]



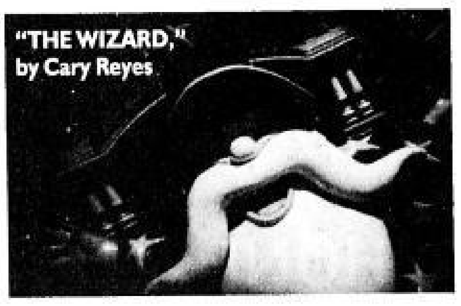
"HOUDINI'S Wheel," by Lejano

"STRIKE a Pose," by Cordero

"SEARCHING for the Next Frontier," by Cordero

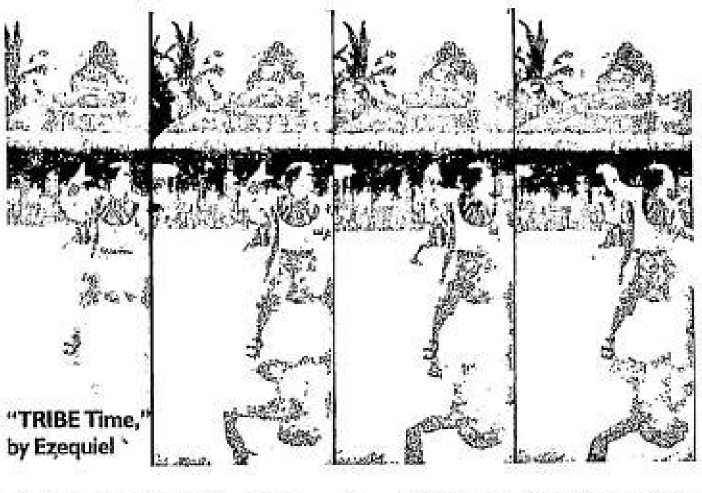
"LAUNCHING at Zero," by Ruby de Vera

"SWAN Lake," by Ezequiel



"THE WIZARD," by Cary Reyes

"PRIME Passion," by Reyes



"TRIBE Time," by Ezequiel

2bU! and LomoManila invaded Enchanted Kingdom. The results are fresh and dreamy images, a new look at a familiar hangout

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Bibay Cordero, Ruby de Vera, Zoe Ezequiel, Jill Lejano, Bien Po, Cary Reyes, KitKat Rodrigo and Rollie Valenzuela of LomoManila

THERE IS NO SUCH THING as same old. Anything old can look new when viewed with fresh eyes, when seen from a different perspective.

In the first ever 2bU! Field Trip, we hit Enchanted Kingdom with the awesome people of LomoManila.

The Lomography enthusiasts invaded the theme park armed with their beloved picture-makers and passion for creating rule-breaking images.

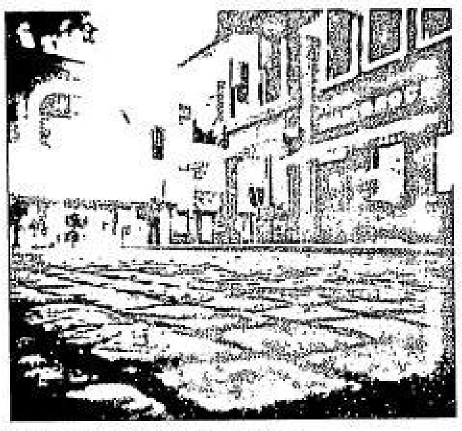
They visited everyone's favorite rides and attractions, eager to shoot Enchanted Kingdom the Lomo way.

On this page is an eye candy feast—a dreamy and surreal tour of a familiar hangout, as captured through the lenses of LomoManila's toy cameras.

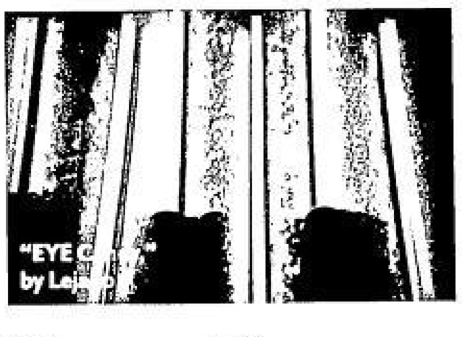
Check out www.lomomanila.ph and visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph. Enchanted Kingdom is open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., starting June 4-Aug. 12. For inquiries, call 8302111-16 or 8436074-78.

Where should our next field trip be? E-mail Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

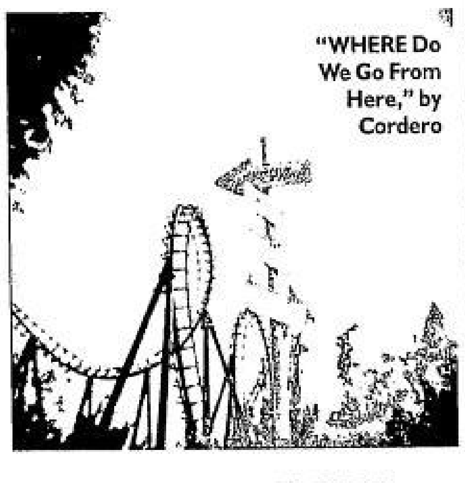
"SKY High," by Rodrigo



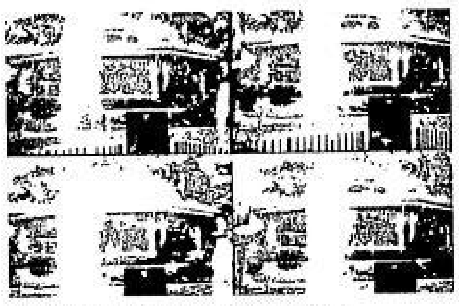
"PATHWAY to Rialto," by Po



"EYE [illegible]" by Le[illegible]

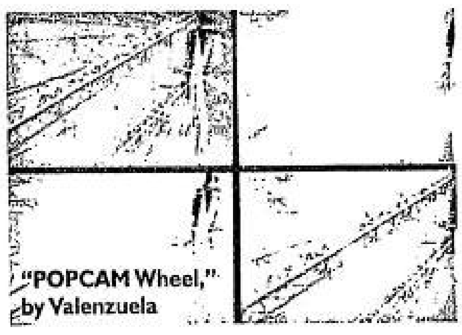


"WHERE Do We Go From Here," by Cordero

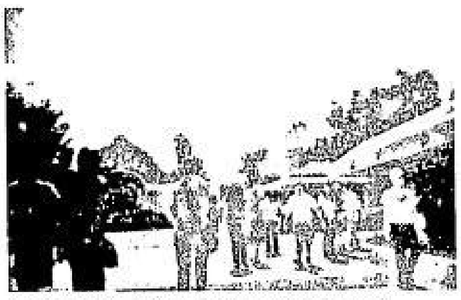


"CAROUSEL by Four," by De Vera

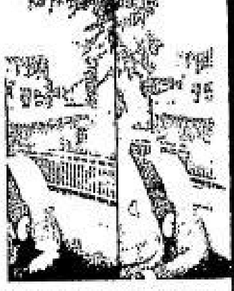
"CLOWNING Around," by Lejano



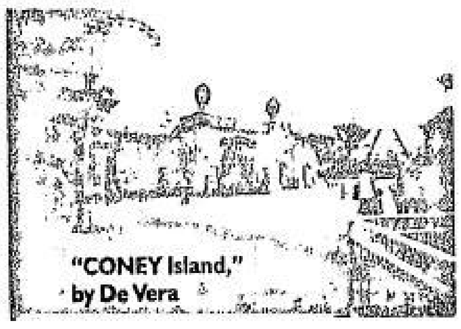
"POPCAM Wheel," by Valenzuela



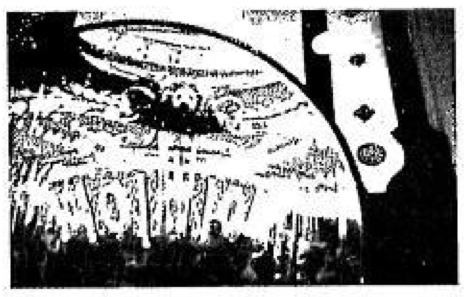
"UNDER the Orange Sun," by De Vera



"ALEX the Great," by



"CONEY Island," by De Vera



"MIRROR Shot," by Valenzuela

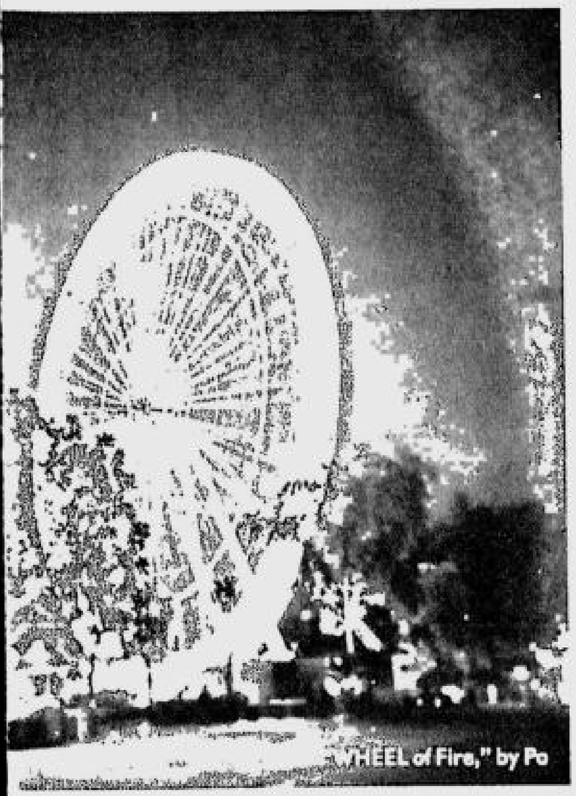
"ANCHORS Away," by Reyes

"BALLOON Bonanza," by Reyes

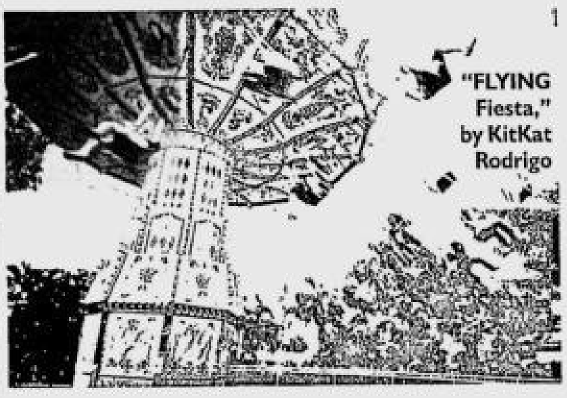
"SWANS," by De Vera

"THE VILLAGE," by Lejano

"RAM Attack," by Lejano

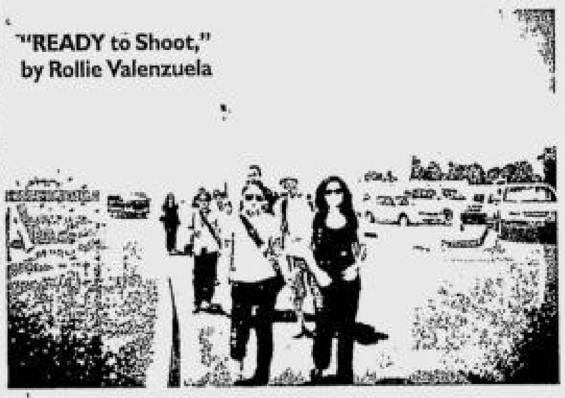


"WHEEL of Fire," by Po



"FLYING Fiesta," by KitKat Rodrigo

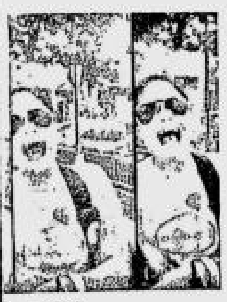
"INFLATED Reflection," by Rodrigo



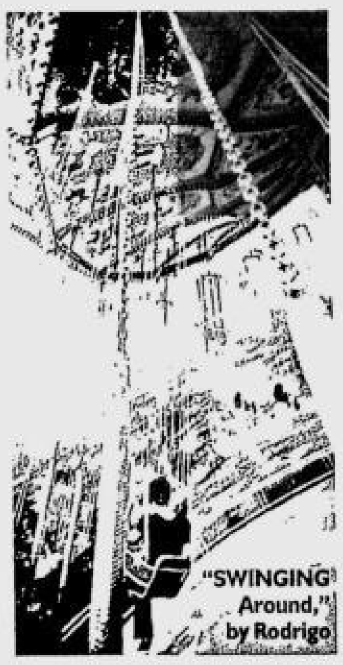
"READY to Shoot," by Rollie Valenzuela

"RED Umbrella," by De Vera

"FUN Fantasy," by Reyes



Ezequiel



"SWINGING Around," by Rodrigo

MOTOROLA

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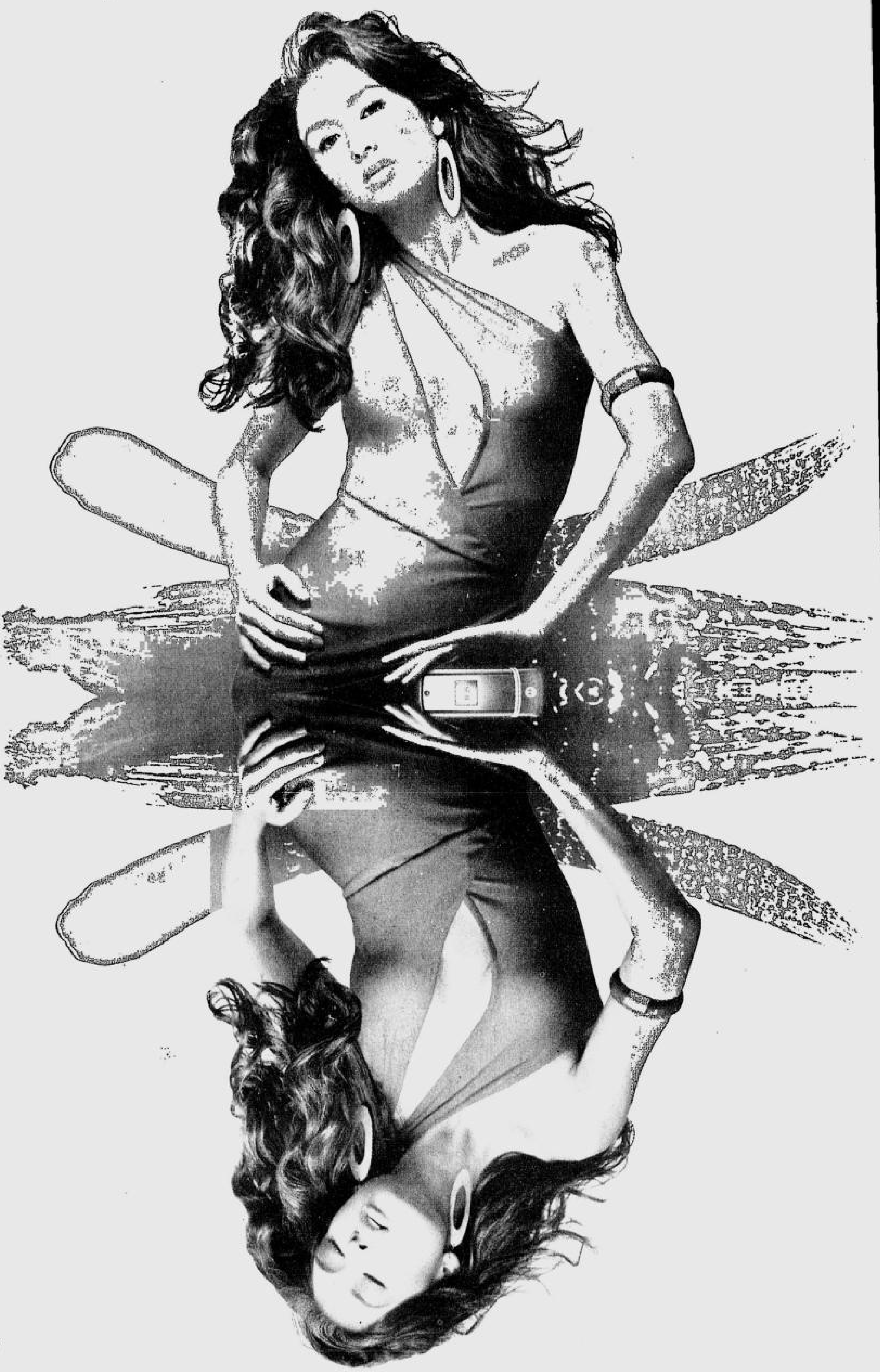

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Promo Duration: June 15 to July 31, 2007. See Flyers and Tent Cards for more details. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2570 series of 2007.

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

Seven questions for Daughtry

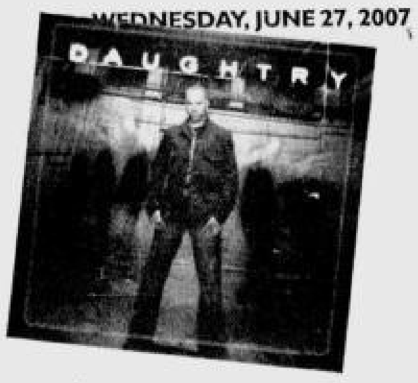
By Mark Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

FANS MIGHT STILL HAVE NOT GOTTEN OVER his fourth place finish in "American Idol" a year ago, but Chris Daughtry proves that losing doesn't mean the end of everything. As his first single says, "It's Not Over." And so his career is going full blast.

Now with a full band that simply calls itself Daughtry, the singer and his groupmates released a self-titled debut album that soared to No. 1 in the Billboard Top 200 Albums chart. His new single "Home," which was used as the "American Idol" boot-out song this season, continues to dominate international as well as local charts.

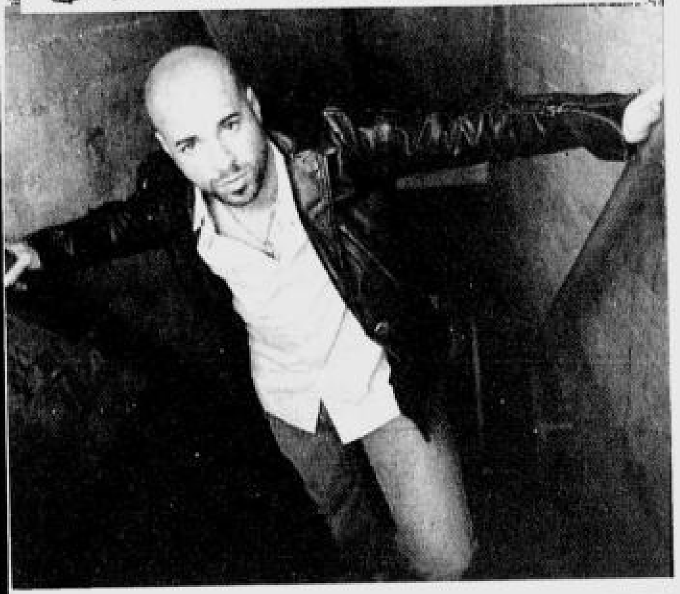
In this yet another 2bU Exclusive, Chris Daughtry took time to answer seven questions—in his own handwriting!

E-mail the author at bedan_rainmaker@hotmail.com.



Do you think if you had won American Idol your career would have taken a different path? Maybe your album would have been more mellow?

① I think it could have.



How did you put your band together?

② Open auditions, Found the guys I was most comfortable w/ as people and players.

How did Slash end up on the album? Did you choose him to work with you on the track 'What I Want'?

③ We asked him if he'd be interested and he said yes. I thought it was a perfect song for him.

Tell us what people would expect in a Daughtry live show.

④ Hot, sweaty, rock show!

What's on your iPod right now? What or whose music keeps you inspired?

⑤ A little bit of everything. Live a huge inspiration for me.

What does Chris Daughtry do for fun?

⑥ write songs / movies / sleep

Some advice for aspiring rockers?

⑦ Keep goin.. believe in your self.

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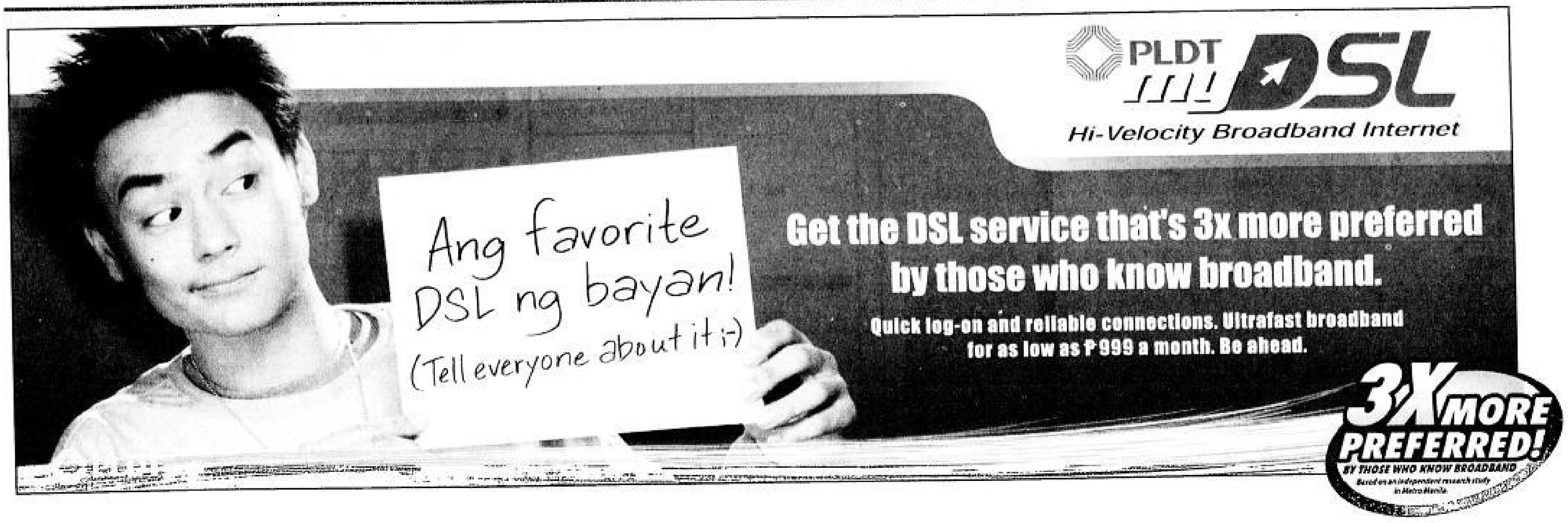
INSIDE
- **Kissing bandit strikes yet again** Rushes /E1
- **Local bands boost French music fest**/E1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Niece of former screen temptress shines in Mutya

By Armin Adina
Photos by Rudy Esperas

THE MUTYA NG PILIPINAS 2007 CORONATION night held at the Olongapo City Convention Center on June 22 was excruciatingly long, but a quip from a candidate during the final round quelled the crowd's growing impatience.

When pageant judge Pilita Corales told candidate Jacqueline Rodriguez, "You are very beautiful," the 18-year-old niece of former screen temptress Vivian Velez responded, "Thank you, so are you!"

This brought Asia's Queen of Song to retort, "I was waiting for that answer." Whereupon, the restless audience burst into an appreciative laughter.

Jacqueline got one of the titles—the Mutya ng Pilipinas-Overseas Communities, given away in recognition of overseas Filipinos' role in promoting Philippine tourism.

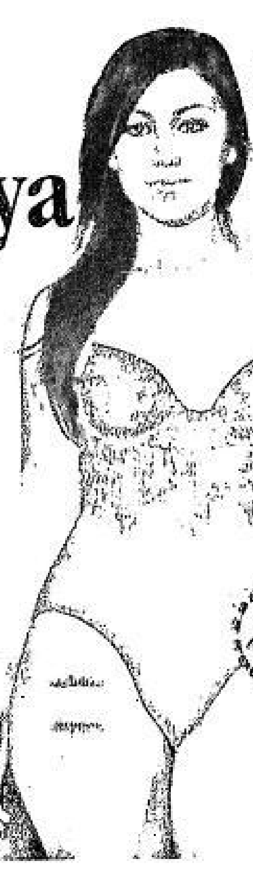
New title

In an earlier interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Mutya ng Pilipinas Inc. president Roberto de Venecia said the new title was to be given "to the highest-ranked overseas-based candidate who will not receive any of the two top titles."

The 5'8½"-tall Jacqueline—from San Fernando Valley, California—was the lone foreign-based delegate who landed in the

NIECE/ D4

VIVIAN Velez, doting aunt RUDY ESPERAS



JACQUELINE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Marriage on the rocks

THE TALK IS SPREADING LIKE wildfire in the Queen City of the South.

According to Cebu's high society kibitzers, Joey Stevens, the husband of 1960s movie queen Amalia Fuentes, has been spotted in the company of a fiftysomething woman who belongs to a prominent political clan in the province.

Stevens has been seen dining in public with the woman, also married, and often with her children in tow. Which, of course, keeps tongues wagging.

Concerned friends are asking whether Amalia, who had been vacationing in the United States, has heard.

Knowing how feisty La Amalia is, the same worried friends are asking: Would she take this sitting down?

Abangan.

EDWIN BACASMAS

AMALIA Fuentes

CHEER FACTOR

Paris, when she fizzles

LOS ANGELES—Doing jail time for driving offenses was difficult. Now Paris Hilton faces the aftermath.

The 26-year-old heiress is expected to be released from an LA County women's jail this week, and she vows to shift her life's course.

But unlike most newly released inmates, Hilton has a trail of photographers in constant pursuit and a career based largely on partying and posing for pictures.

Hilton insists she is a changed woman after serving time.

God's 'call'

"I would like to make a difference," she told TV interviewer Barbara Walters in a call from jail. "God has given me this new chance."

Saying it is one thing and doing it is another, said Dorian Traube, a professor of social work at the University of Southern California.

Traube said: "If this indeed has changed her, then the transition will be very difficult because she'll have to find a new purpose in life" beyond being queen of the party scene. *AP*

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11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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2 NEXT
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3.
4 INVISIBLES
5 WILDERNESS
6 ANGELS

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3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 INVISIBLES
7 NEXT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 BUG
10 ANGELS
11 SILIP
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BUG
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEXT
5 INVISIBLES
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 WILDERNESS
8 BORDERTOWN
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 ANGELS
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 SILIP

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7 NEXT
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10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 OCEAN'S 13
12 BORDERTOWN

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3 ANGELS
4 THE SHOOTER

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2 ANGELS.
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE SHOOTER

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3 ZODIAC
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4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 INVISIBLES
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 WHISPER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 CONDEMNED
2 INVISIBLES
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 INVISIBLES
6 CONDEMNED

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LUCKY YOU
2 RESERVED
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 BORDERTOWN
7 RESERVED
8 INVISIBLES

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLES
3 CONDEMNED
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 ZODIAC
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 WHISPER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEXT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 INVISIBLE
PREMIERE
FANTASTIC FOUR

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLE
3 ANGELS
4 NEXT

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 BUG
5 RESERVED

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 CAPE KARMA
2 INVISIBLE
3 NEXT
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

THEATRES
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 ANGELS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BUG
2 CAPE KARMA
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEXT
6 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
7 INVISIBLE
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 ANGELS
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FRACTURE
3 INVISIBLE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEXT
3 BUG
4 SILIP
5 CAPE KARMA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 SILIP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ANGELS
2 WILDDERNESS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4440346)
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ANGELS
2 WILDDERNESS
3 INVISBLE
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 NEXT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 INVISBLE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISBLE
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6773
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ANGELS / MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 SILIP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 FRACTURE
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 KAPE KARMA
4 BORDERTOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202
1 INVISIBLE
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS
5 FIREHOUSE DOG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WILDERNESS
2 INVISIBLE
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 CHECK INN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NICHOLAS Cage in "Next"

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
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THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
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CINEMA 1 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:40 , 2:00 , 4:20
6:40 , 9:00 GP

CINEMA 2 THE INVISIBLE
12:15 , 2:50 , 5:20
7:50 , 10:20 PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 NEXT
12:15 , 2:25 , 4:35
6:45 , 9:00 PG-13

CINEMA 4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 , 2:50 , 5:10
7:30 , 9:50 GP

CINEMA 5 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:45 , 1:10 , 3:30
5:50 , 8:10 , 10:30 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	July 7, 2007	Feelin' Las Vegas "Willie Nep"	8:30 PM
	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	June 29	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	July 06 , 13 , 20 & 27 August 6-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Groove to the
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

TRANSFORMERS
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
WITH EARLY MORNING SCREENING
8:00 & 9:00 AM
on June 28-30, 2007
FOR INQUIRIES CALL
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	NEXT 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 PG-13
2	FANTASTIC 4 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 G
3	FANTASTIC 4 1:20, 3:40, 6:00 8:20, 10:50 G
4	INVISIBLE 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

NEXT PG13 1:50,4:05,6:20,8:35	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	THE INVISIBLES PG13 1:20,3.35,5:50, 8:05,10:20
NEXT PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:30	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN PG13 3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 2:30.4:40.6:50.9:00

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JUNE 29 to JULY 1
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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM
Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM
Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM
Admission Prices: P 250
1 OCEAN'S 13
2 NEXT
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3.
4 INVISIBLES
5 WILDERNESS
6 ANGELS

PREMIERE CINEMA
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

CENTERSTAGE
FANTASTIC FOUR

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
FANTASTIC FOUR
CINEMA 2
NEXT
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 NEXT
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 INVISIBLES
7 NEXT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 BUG
10 ANGELS
11 SILIP
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BUG
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEXT
5 INVISIBLES
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 WILDERNESS
8 BORDERTOWN
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 ANGELS
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 SILIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 WILDERNESS
2 BUG
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 INVISIBLES
7 NEXT
8 ANGELS
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 OCEAN'S 13
12 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEXT
3 BUG
4 INVISIBLES
5 ANGELS
6 BORDERTOWN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 SILIP
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEXT
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 INVISIBLES
6 ANGELS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 BUG
4 NEXT
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 WILDERNESS
9 INVISIBLES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 NEXT
2 ANGELS
3 INVISIBLE
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 NEXT
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 INVISIBLES
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 ANGELS
6 BUG
7 WILDERNESS
8 SILIP
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 BORDERTOWN
12 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4322201-04
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 ZOMBIES
4 INVISIBLES

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 BORDERTOWN
3 ANGELS
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 INVISIBLES
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 NEXT
4 ANGELS

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 BORDERTOWN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS
5 INVISIBLES
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 SILIP
8 OCEAN'S 13

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 INVISIBLES
4 CONDEMNED
5 ANGELS
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 ANGELS
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 OCEAN'S 13
2 ANGELS.
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLES
3 ZODIAC
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 CONDEMNED
6 ANGELS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 INVISIBLES
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 INVISIBLES
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 INVISIBLES
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 WHISPER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 CONDEMNED
2 INVISIBLES
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
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5 28 WEEKS LATER
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8 INVISIBLES

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
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4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 OCEAN'S 13
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7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 WHISPER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU

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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 (dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (dolby) NEXT
3 (dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (dolby) INVISIBLE
PREMIERE
(dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4236
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLE
3 ANGELS
4 NEXT

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BUG
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994
1 CAPE KARMA
2 INVISIBLE
3 NEXT
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

THEATRES
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 ANGELS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE HILLS HAVE EYES
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BUG
2 CAPE KARMA
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEXT
6 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
7 INVISIBLE
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 ANGELS
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) FRACTURE
3 (DOLBY) INVISIBLE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 NEXT
3 BUG
4 SILIP
5 CAPE KARMA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 SILIP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
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2 WILDDERNESS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Jade Cinema
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1 ANGELS
2 WILDDERNESS
3 INVISBLE
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (dolby) NEXT
2 (dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (dolby) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (dolby) INVISBLE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISBLE
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 INVISIBLE
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 CHECK INN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NICHOLAS Cage in "Next"

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GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

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CINEMA	FILM	TIMES	RATING
1	FANTASTIC FOUR	11:40 , 2:00 , 4:20 6:40 , 9:00	GP
2	THE INVISIBLE	12:15 , 2:50 , 5:20 7:50 , 10:20	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES	RATING
3	NEXT	12:15 , 2:25 , 4:35 6:45 , 9:00	PG-13
4	FANTASTIC FOUR	12:30 , 2:50 , 5:10 7:30 , 9:50	GP
5	FANTASTIC FOUR	10:45 , 1:10 , 3:30 5:50 , 8:10 , 10:30	GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM	July 7, 2007	Feelin' Las Vegas "Willie Nep"	8:30 PM
	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	June 29	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	July 06, 13, 20 & 27 August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

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Catch
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as they bring back hits from the 50's & 60's
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FREE ADMISSION

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WITH EARLY MORNING SCREENING
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on June 28-30, 2007
OR INQUIRIES CALL
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES	RATING
1	NEXT	1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	PG-13
2	FANTASTIC 4	12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	G
3	FANTASTIC 4	1:20, 3:40, 6:00 8:20, 10:50	G
4	INVISIBLE	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13

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NEXT PG13 1:50,4:05,6:20,8:35	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	THE INVISIBLES PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50, 8:05,10:20
NEXT PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:30	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN PG13 3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 2:30,4:40,6:50,9:00

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Next’ just a bag of cheap tricks

ANGELES—YOU START WITH A story by one of the true sci-fi mas- Philip K. Dick, with an intriguing se about a guy who can see into his future and anticipate all possible mes of his actions.

en you bring in Academy Award- r Nicolas Cage who, while making a bad movies, nevertheless manages n most of his action films into hits.

l Oscar nominee Julianne Moore as icious FBI agent and Jessica Biel for andy, then hire Lee Tamahori, direc- ho may be a hack but at least has n solid action instincts on the James adventure “Die Another Day.”

s in Peter Falk for a crusty cameo the fine German actor Thomas hmann to play the Eurotrash villain aims to explode a stolen Russian in LA, with Moore hunting down Cage so he can tip off the feds on when the blast will happen.

That all could work, right? Not even close.

The paranormal thriller “Next” shows how a solid crew of filmmakers and performers can apply a big-studio budget to a good story idea and still have absolutely everything come out wrong.

No clue

The three screenwriters—including executive producer Gary Goldman, who worked on the Dick adaptations “Total Recall” and “Minority Report”—take only the basic clairvoyance notion from the author’s story “The Golden Man” and leave behind all the nuance, cunning and weirdness that make Dick’s tales so attractive in the first place.

Dick’s story was set in the future, where the “golden man” was really golden, a mutant with tinted skin being hunted by a government that’s paranoid over his precognitive ability. “Next” presents Cage’s Cris Johnson as a guy scraping by in today’s world, using his talent to see two minutes into the future to make a living as a magician/small-time gambler.

We’re never given a clue how, but agent Callie Ferris (Moore) has discovered Cris’ ability and accepts it matter-of-factly. We’re also never given a clue how, but the feds know a gang of terrorists have obtained a warhead and plan to wipe out LA. Ferris convinces her boss that tracking down Cris and using him as a divining rod for nukes is the only way to stop the bad guys. So much for legwork.

A cheap plot twist near the end would be an aggravating deceit if it weren’t so laughable.

AP

Kayong dalawa na... Bubuksan pa ba sa iba?
MORENO

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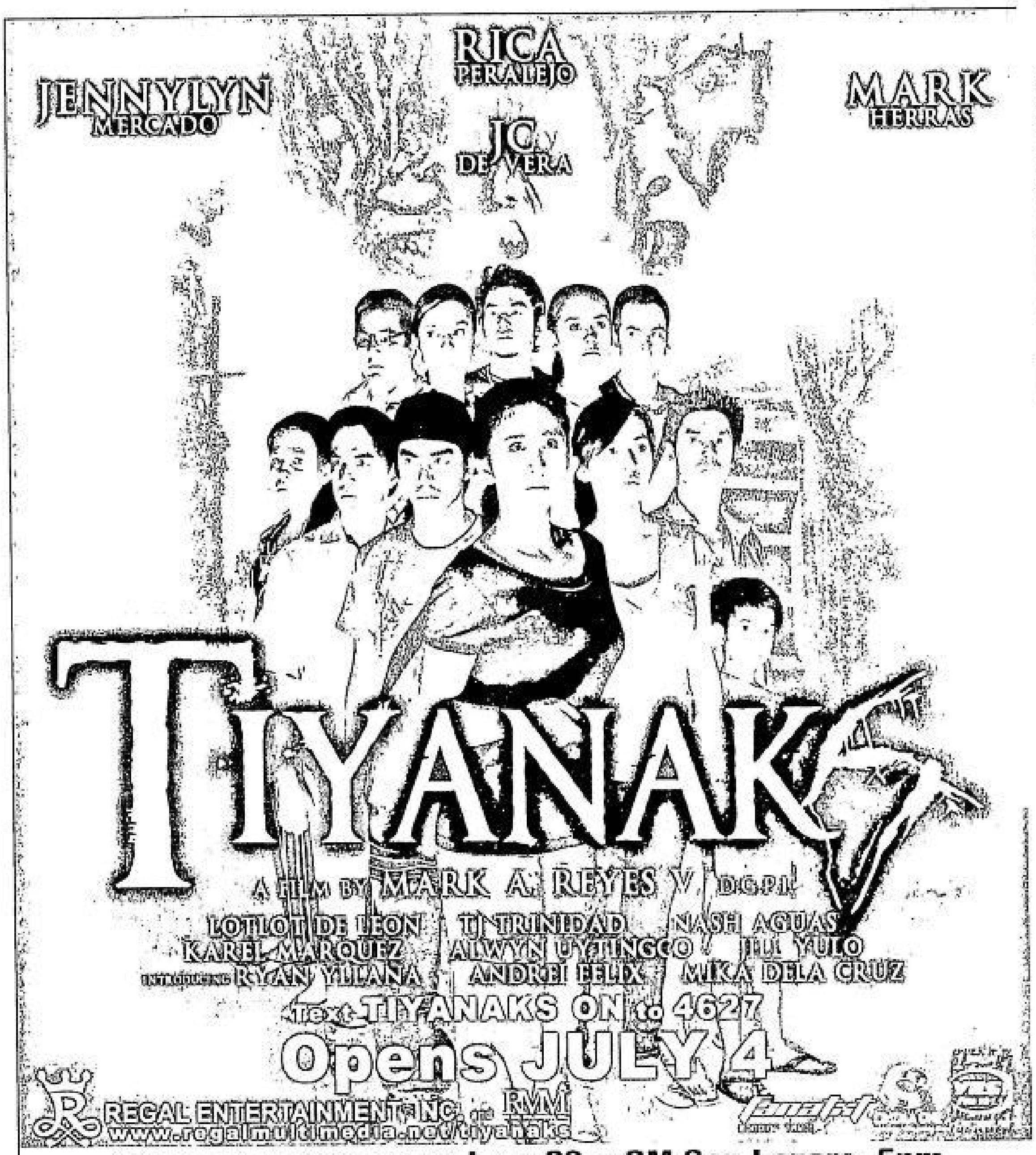
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1 NEXT 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45
2 THE INVISIBLE 1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
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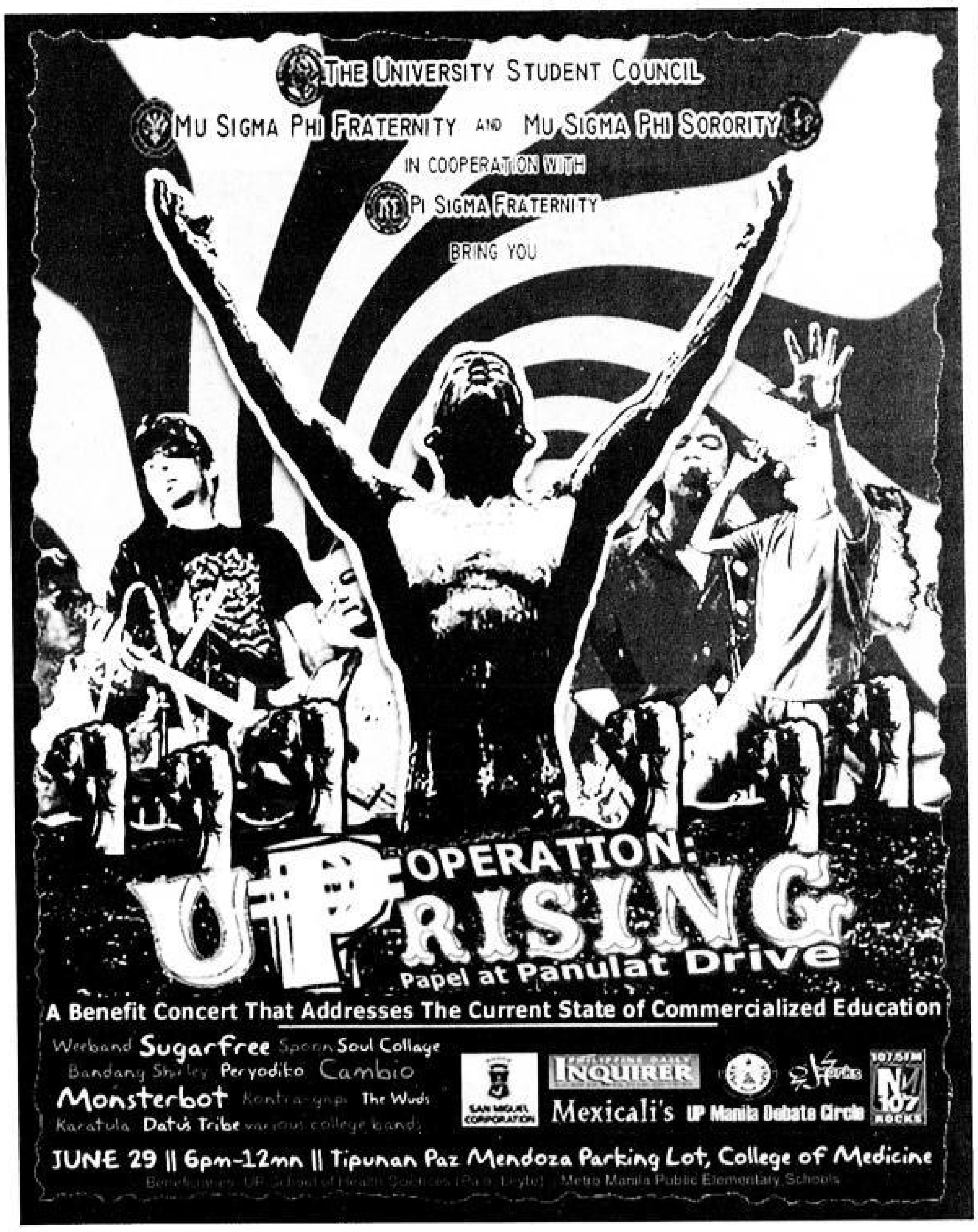
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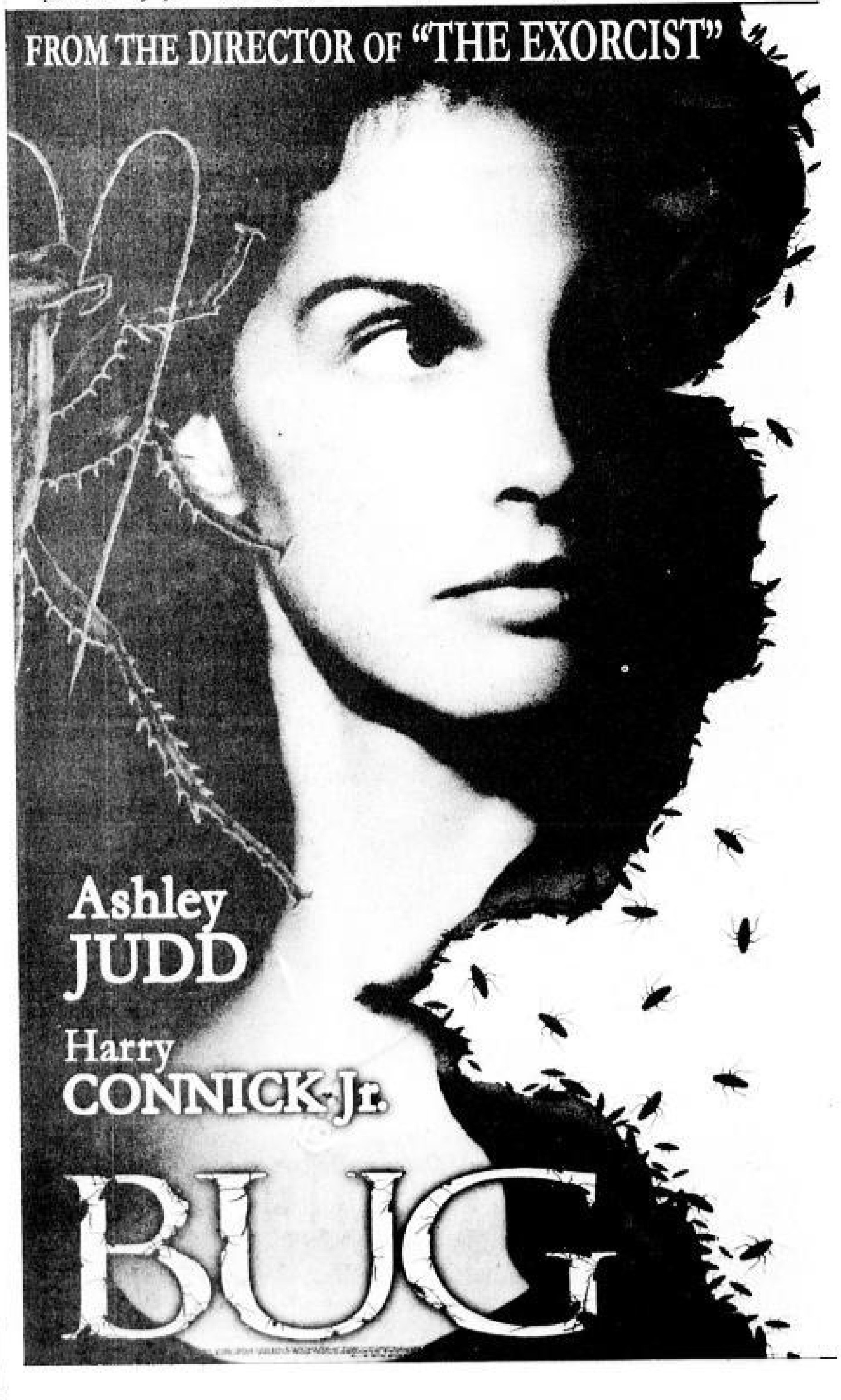
THEY FEED ON YOUR BRAIN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF “THE EXORCIST”


Ashley JUDD
Harry CONNICK Jr.
BUG

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Niece of former ...

From page D1

pageant's Top 5. She was also proclaimed Mutya ng Subic Bay-Investments, equivalent to third runner-up.

As her famous aunt watched from the front row, Jacqueline told the judges, which included Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz and local tourism advocate Susan Calo Medina, that she will never forget the lessons she learned from fellow candidates and their chaperones with whom she had "so much fun."

She said, "I've only been in Subic for three weeks but it has already become like my second home."

Immediate plans

Jacqueline plans to take her mom and her mom's friends to Subic soon to go para-sailing and relax which, she said, she was not able to do during the three-week long pageant.

The two top plums also went to 18-year-olds—Zephorah Mayon of Las Piñas, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific International; and Ana Marie Morelos of Valenzuela, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism International.

Former Miss Philippines Earth semifinalist Iris Frances Tan of Pasig City was named Mutya ng Subic Bay-Environment or first runner-up; Quezon City's Ricamarie Taylor, a veteran of two Binibining Pilipinas pageants, was Mutya ng Subic Bay-Adventure or second runner-up.

This year's pageant carried the slogan "Extreme Beauty Adventure" and was hosted by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. All major activities were held in the Greater Subic Freeport Area, which also includes Olongapo City and the provinces of Zambales and Bataan.

Through the years, Mutya has attracted a great number of overseas-based candidates. This year, there were nine such participants.

Last year's winner, Filipino-Norwegian Kirby Ann Basken, has virtually shown the girls how to carry out their duties. She recently brought Norwegians to the country and took them to some popular tourist destinations.

Hosts Marc Nelson and TJ Manotoc failed to engage the crowd, as they appeared to be talking only to themselves during the long breaks.

Perky Sitti

Anchorperson Sitti was perkier as she interviewed the girls backstage and introduced the "Diary of a Mutya" videos.

Providing entertainment were singers Jed Madela and Billy Crawford and the Philippine Madrigal singers, with Louie Ocampo providing musical accompaniment.

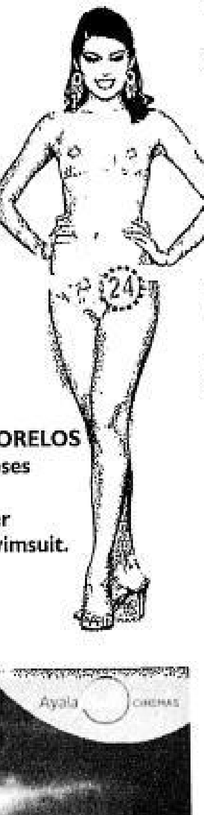
Local designers provided the candidates' beautiful ternos in the opening numbers. Renee Salud executed the evening gowns for the candidates as well as the swimsuits used by the Top 15.

The Mutya ng Pilipinas 2007 beauty pageant will be telecast on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) on July 1.

PILITA CORRALES

GLORIA DIAZ

ANNA Marie Morelos, left, and Jacqueline Rodriguez



MORELOS poses in her swimsuit.

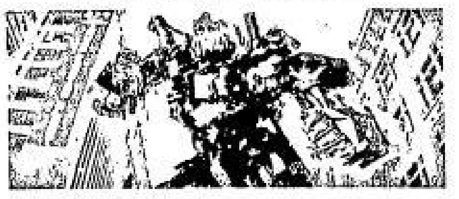
MARC NELSON

JED MADELA

TJ MANOTOC

THE MADRIGAL Singers PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

OPENING TODAY

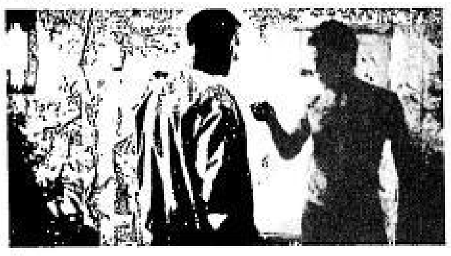


Transformers

Stars Shia LeBeouf, Megan Fox, Jon Voight, Josh Duhamel, John Turturro

Directed by Michael Bay

Earth is caught in an intergalactic war between two races of robotic aliens—the heroic Autobots and the malevolent Decepticons. Jay Weissberg of Variety comments that this cartoon-based action flick is "big, loud and full of testosterone-fueled car fantasies ... [It] hits a new peak for CGI work ... an impressive show of the latest tech advances." Louise Keller of Urbancinefile.com opines that "everything about it is big ... it counters subtlety, scarcity and restraint." James O'Ehley of Sci-Fi Movie Page thinks it's "more likely to appeal to nostalgic male twentysomethings who lived through the original craze than anyone else."



Bug

Stars Ashley Judd, Michael Shannon, Harry Connick Jr.

Directed by William Friedkin

Based on a play by Tracy Letts and directed by the same filmmaker behind "The Exorcist," this psychological thriller features a pair of lonely losers holed up in an Oklahoma hotel room. Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times states that it's "uneven and claustrophobic ... [but it has] a clever conceit and the creepiness gets under your skin." Ella Taylor of LA Weekly rants that it "plays more like lousy dinner theater doing its darndest to give paranoia a bad name." Richard Schickel of Time praises it: "[it] takes you deep into the realm of abnormal psychology ... Like it or not, it's a serious movie, very possibly Friedkin's best."

Cape Karma

Stars Rahul Dev, Audrey Woodhouse, Gulshan Grover

Directed by Pankaj Advani

Its own website describes this Bollywood production as "nightmarish ... a terrifying ride into a whirlpool of madness. Surreal, bizarre, demonic." It centers on a lonely, depressed man who was abandoned by his wife for another guy. After a car accident, he stumbles into a magical orange door that leads him to a strange new world where he becomes obsessed with a beautiful yet enigmatic woman. The psychological thriller is directed by Advani who has won local awards and whose work has been shown in international film festivals in India, Egypt and the United States. The flick was reportedly shot in Loch View Farm, near Comrie in Scotland.

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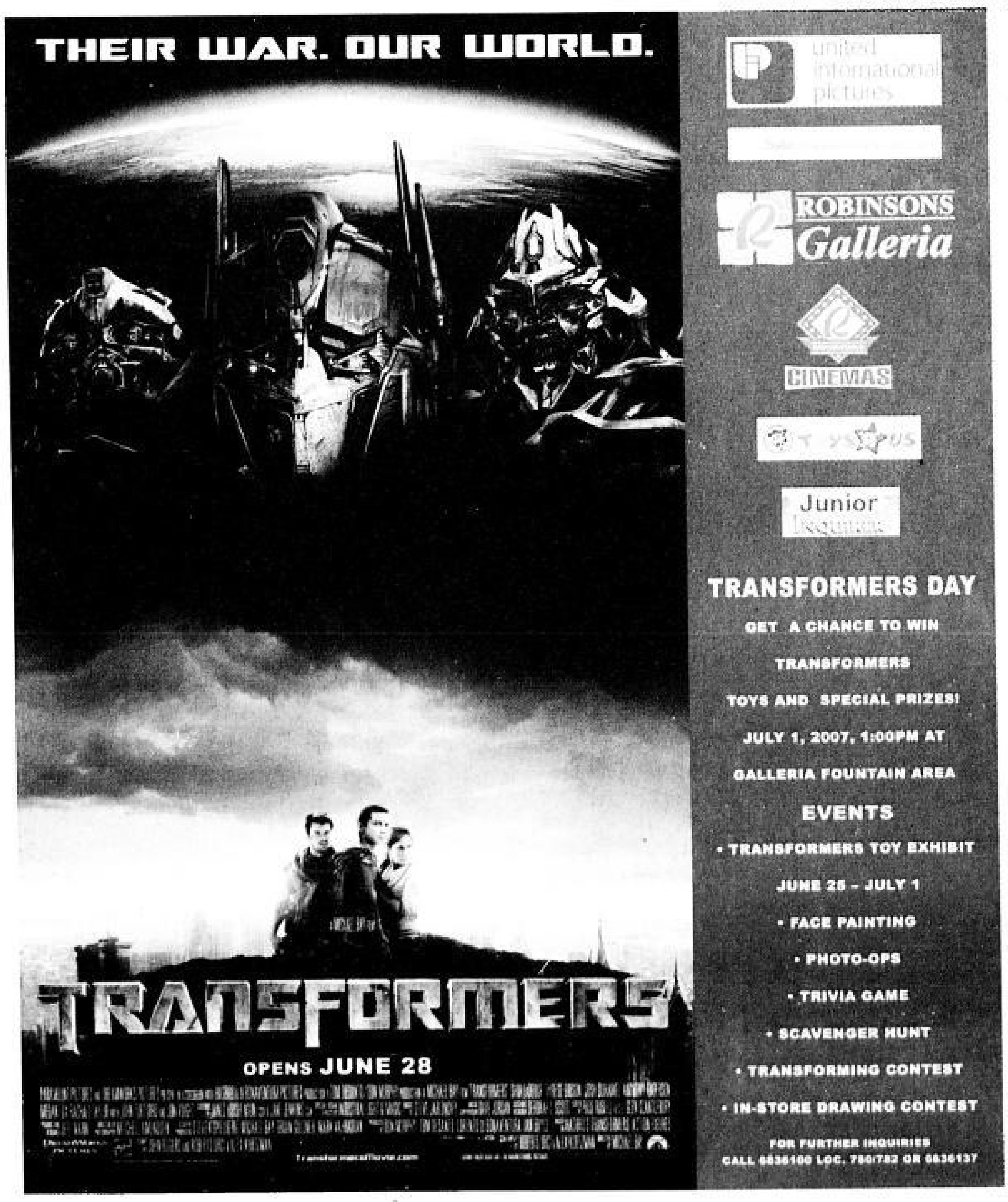

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WOODY ALLEN, 71, is set to direct part of a Los Angeles Opera production of Puccini's "Il Trittico" play, according to the company's general director, Placido Domingo. *AFP*

DID YOU KNOW...

A kissing bandit, an irate PBB viewer and the top of the Sunday talk shows

RUSHES

NOT EXACTLY NAIVE, THE YOUNG ACtress noticed that her leading man was revising the script with increasing frequency. Specifically, he was inserting more kissing scenes!

Not exactly a shrinking violet, either, she made her distaste known to her producers, manager, *yaya*, publicist and anyone who cared to listen, until it reached the ears of the kissing bandit.

His retort? To rewrite the script yet again—yes, he had that much control—redirecting his amorous designs to the female *contravida*.

The feisty young gal is being romantically linked to the male *contravida*. That's called musical chairs.

Anti-PBB

We received a copy of an open letter to ABS-CBN head Gabby Lopez that condemns "Pinoy Big Brother Season 2," for abetting "acts of shameless bullying ... [particularly] the disgusting behavior of a female contestant."

The letter sender, a TFC subscriber based in Singapore, focused his ire on a contestant, identified by a network insider as Wendy: "To show clips of this [woman] using poverty ... to justify her evil deeds is [to] spit on the face of every ... struggling and hardworking Filipino."

The parting shot: "[She's] obviously a favorite [of the] Powers That Be."

Guest who?

Ruffa Gutierrez got bodyguards from the Philippine National Police (PNP), to protect her family from estranged husband Yilmaz Bektas. A few days later, she was crooning a different tune: "Yilmaz is welcome to my birthday party. He's my guest!"

From prince to frog

Not a few brows were raised when this older guy went steady with a decidedly younger miss. Smitten, the girl thought she had found Prince Charming.

Soon enough, he turned into a frog—nagging her about her choice of clothes, her habits, her career, everything. She couldn't stand it.

Last we heard, he's training his sights on another young miss.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed the TV chat shows last weekend:

- Girl torn between two girls. Aiza Seguerra's relationship with girlfriend Chen supposedly hit a snag in the person of bossa nova singer Sitti. Aiza refused to address the issue, and just said "Let us be." Sitti's very straightforward reply: "Aiza and Chen are going strong ... and I'm not into that kind of relationship."

The interviewer wouldn't let go but Aiza, creditably, held her ground.

- Boy torn among three girls. Mark Herras, already said to be torn between Ryza Cenon and Rhian Ramos, is trying to win back ex-girlfriend Marian Rivera. Ryza and Rhian deny the Mark connection. Says Rhian: "It's a case of mistaken identity." Says Ryza: "Mark is *malambing* (affectionate) to everyone." An equal-opportunities guy!

NYOY VOLANTE

- Nina and Nyoy Volante have broken up. Nyoy said they "tried to work it out." Nina insisted it was "a mutual decision." What happened? They denied rumors of a third party. Nina, in two words: "We're busy."
- Nyoy wrote the song "Someday" for Nina. So now is he singing, "Someday, someone's gonna love me; someday, someone's gonna take your place"?

Not-so-casual

- Not-so-casual plug. Former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz was interviewed on "Showbiz Cental," as part of a campaign for a detergent brand. Trust Ms Gloria to tell it like it is. When Pia Guanio asked about the beauty queen's beauty secret, the cutting reply Pia got was, "That's the question most asked of me."
- BTW, why was Pia's hand shaking while interviewing Marian Rivera, the new "Marimar"?
- An interview that went nowhere was that one between "Showbiz Central" guest Ethel Booba and jury member Rufa Mae Quinto. The girls' unspoken agreement seemed to be: When in doubt, crack jokes.
- Ogie Alcasid claimed that estranged wife Michelle van Eimeren and present girlfriend Regine Velasquez were now friends, and that Regine had met his two daughters, Lila and Sarah. "They're playmates now; everyone's happy," said Ogie. Even Regine's dad, *Mang* Gerry?

MICHELLE VAN EIMEREN

So very far

- The Rosanna vs Lolit and Lorna squabble is *far* from over.
- Lorna Tolentino to Rosanna Roces: "If you have nothing to say *na maganda, 'wag ka na lang sana magsalita.*"
- Lolit Solis: "*Marunong ka bang magdasal? Pumatol ka kay* Rudy Fernandez *kahit alam mong may asawa kayong pareho.*"
- Lorna: "It's so hard to be strong, *lalo na kung may mga tao* who are so insensitive about what you're going through."
- Lolit: "*Magharap-harap na lang tayo!*"
- Lolit on Osang's comment ("*Linisin muna nya ang sariling bakuran n'ya*"): "*Alam kong pinariringgan n'ya na* tomboy *si* LT. *Ito lang ang masasabi ko, si* LT *naging babae dahil kay* Rudy."
- Lorna: "*Matagal na 'yang* issue *na 'yan. Bata pa ako sinagot ko na 'yan.*"

Can't let go

- The Ruffa-Yilmaz word war. (We'll let go if you do. Promise.)

Ruffa to Boy Abunda: "*Nagseselos si* Yilmaz *pag nakikita n'yang* happy *ako. Ayaw n'ya akong mag*-move on."

Boy Abunda: "Is he trying to win you back?"

Ruffa: "Yes, he's trying to win me back. *Pero nag-iiba [ang isip n'ya] araw-araw.*

Annabelle Rama on Ruffa's comment that it would take her 10 years to find someone to replace Yilmaz: "*Hindi ako naniniwala!*" (*Kami din.*)

Annabelle's wish for Ruffa, who was celebrating her birthday: "*Sana maging* healthy *ang pamilya mo. Sunod-sunod na sana ang suwerte mo. Sana makahanap ka ng lalakeng bubuhay sa 'yo at hindi ikaw ang magpapakain.*"

Ruffa: "Mom!"

Price of celebrity

- Judy Ann Santos is almost always giddy when talking about her relationship with Ryan Agoncillo. The TV host-actor is often ill-at-ease. "I'm not worried about getting married," he told Boy Abunda. "I'm more worried about keeping my vows. You can't hire anyone to help you keep your vows."

We're reading between the lines.

- Boy apologized to the couple "for always [asking] about your marriage plans—that's the price of being public figures."

Mutual counsel

POPS FERNANDEZ

- Pops Fernandez, who recently returned to Manila after a series of concerts in the United States, assured friends that her relationship with actor Jomari Yllana is stronger than ever, despite news that Jom and ex-girlfriend Ara Mina are now on good terms.

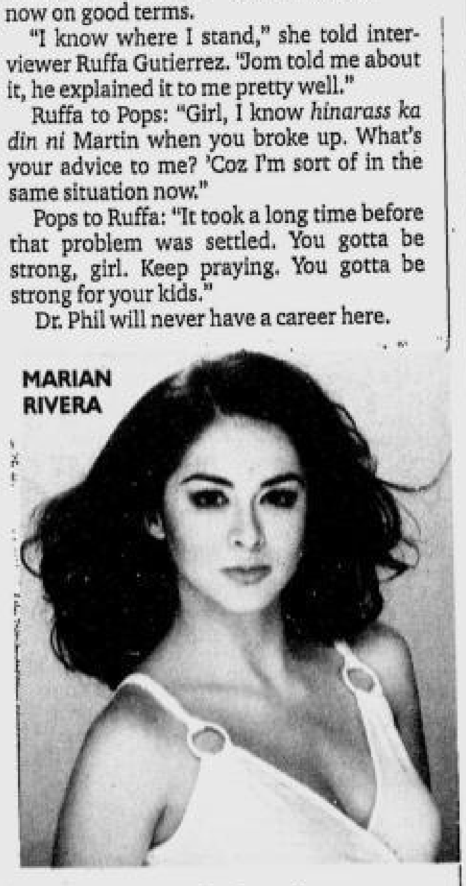
"I know where I stand," she told interviewer Ruffa Gutierrez. 'Jom told me about it, he explained it to me pretty well."

Ruffa to Pops: "Girl, I know *hinarass ka din ni* Martin when you broke up. What's your advice to me? 'Coz I'm sort of in the same situation now."

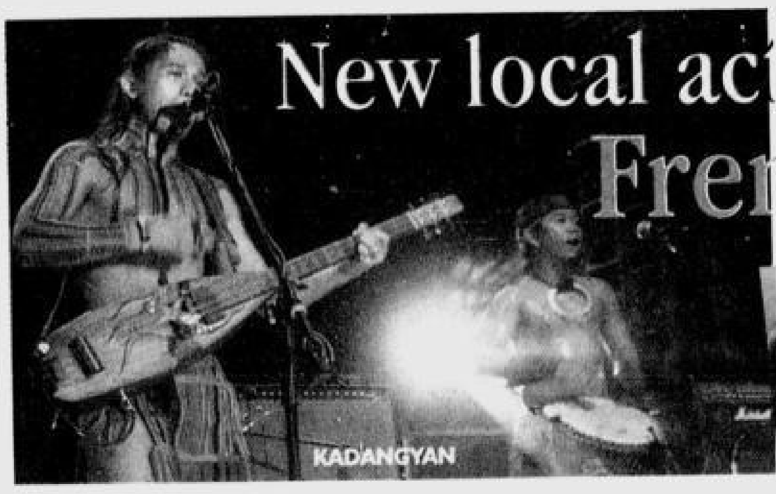
Pops to Ruffa: "It took a long time before that problem was settled. You gotta be strong, girl. Keep praying. You gotta be strong for your kids."

Dr. Phil will never have a career here.

MARIAN RIVERA



New local acts boost French fest


KADANGYAN

EPI QUIZON

Text and photos by Jude Thaddeus Bautista
Contributor

THOUSANDS IGNORED THE RAINS last Saturday to attend "Fete de la Musique 2007," an annual open-air festival, that gathered a wide variety of local bands playing simultaneously on four different stages.

Sponsored by Alliance Francaise de Manille, this year's event was held at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza, Remedios Circle, Maria Orosa and Adriatico-Bocobo streets in Malate.

More than 100 musicians kept the party going from 4 p.m. till dawn to usher in the 436th Araw Ng Maynila.

Little drummer boy

Most of the usual crowd-drawers were present. But it was the unique sound and all-out performances of upcoming acts such as Makatha, Kadangyan, The Space Flowers, Mobb Star, Rapskallion, Typecast and Moyg that kept the predominantly young crowd in a frenzy.

MAKATHA drummer Badjao

Makatha, fronted by brothers Epi and Ronnie Quizon, featured a 12-year-old drummer named Badjao. He never missed a beat and matched the performance level of his adult counterparts. Makatha's music had a hypnotic rhythm and ethnic feel.

Kadangyan has been quietly establishing a reputation. Its richly textured sound is derived from native instruments from the Cordilleras and Mindanao. But with members hailing from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the music showed a range of styles that most Filipinos can relate to.

RONNIE QUIZON

The acts at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza included Orange and Lemons, Radioactive Sago Project, Cynthia Alexander, The Dawn, Rocksteddy, True Faith, Mojofly, John Lesaca and Up Dharma Down.

The Remedios Circle stage presented rock alternative, punk and metal with Typecast, Moyg, Greyhoundz, The Wuds, Queso, Chicosci, Hilera, Kapatid, Effinboiche, Boy Elroy, Vox de Murk, Subscapular, Eternal Now, Severo, Analog and Teenage Hero, among others.

World music

The Maria Orosa stage showcased world, ethnic, jazz, reggae, ska and electronica with the likes of Drip, DayDream Cycle, Milagros Dance Hall Collective, The Rinka Collective, Bagetsafonik, Jeepney Joyride, the Blue Rats, Wahijuara, Brass Munkys, Coffee Break Island, Swissy, Spy, Pinikpikan, Paramita, Outerhope, Johnny Alegre Affinity, Sino Sikat? and Juan Pablo Dream.

The Adriatico corner Bocobo stage was for hip hop, R&B and soul performers such as Krazykyle, Audible, Flipballaz, Los Indios Bravoz, Dcoy, The Franchize, Sunny Blaze, Nimbusnine, Mobbstarr, Syke, JayFlava, Stick Figgas, Peoples Future & Hira The Beatboxer.

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MAGBALIK - CALLALILY
SORRY NA PWEDE BA - BROWNMAN REVIVAL
*Ringtone list is updated regularly.
For ₱99 load and below, you get 1 FREE download.
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All valid for 7 days.
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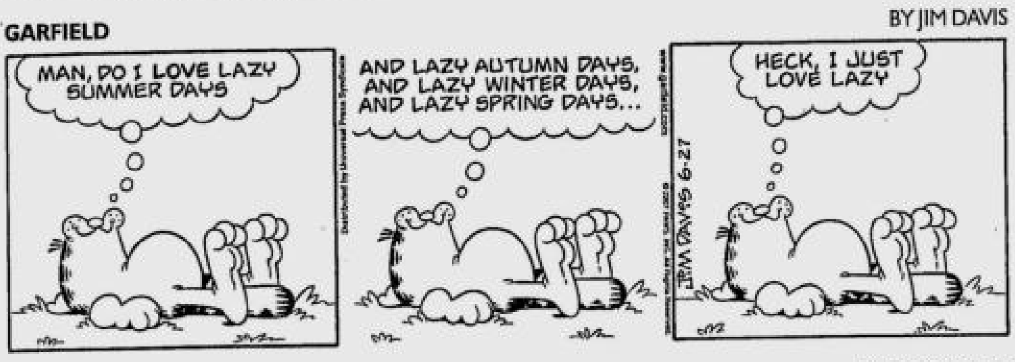
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2694 SERIES OF 2007

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

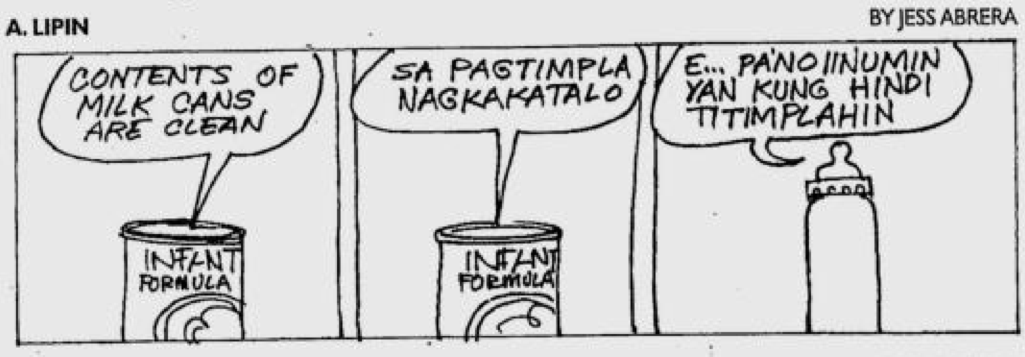
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


MAN, DO I LOVE LAZY SUMMER DAYS
AND LAZY AUTUMN DAYS, AND LAZY WINTER DAYS, AND LAZY SPRING DAYS...
HECK, I JUST LOVE LAZY
JIM DAVIS 6-27

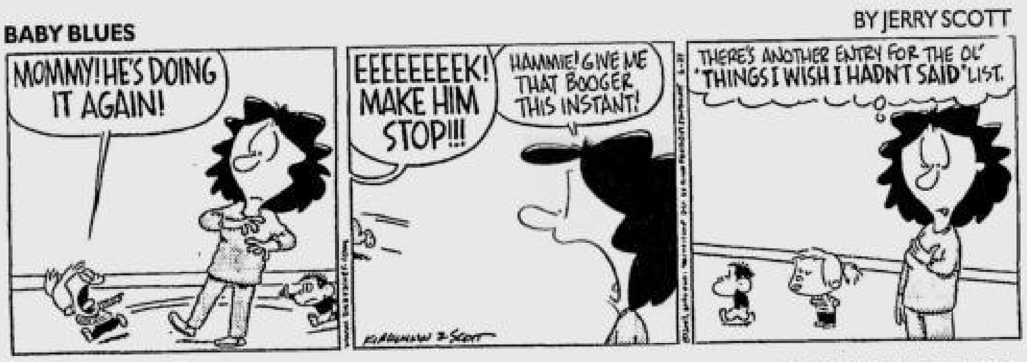
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


CONTENTS OF MILK CANS ARE CLEAN
INFANT FORMULA
SA PAGTIMPLA NAGKAKATALO
INFANT FORMULA
E... PA'NO IINUMIN YAN KUNG HINDI TITIMPLAHIN

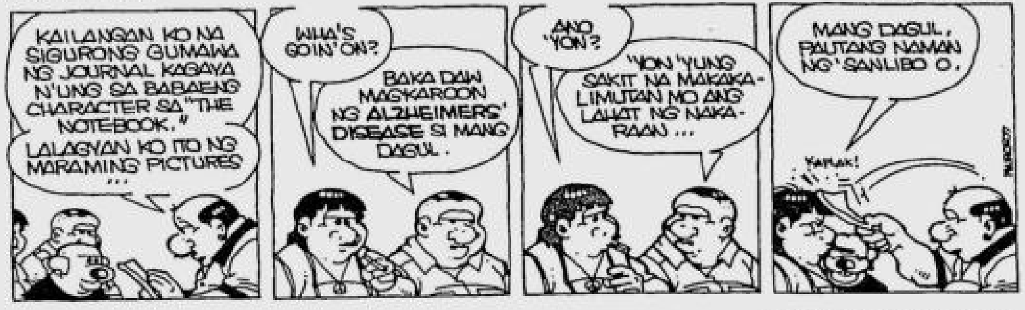
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY! HE'S DOING IT AGAIN!
EEEEEEEEK! MAKE HIM STOP!!!
HAMMIE! GIVE ME THAT BOOGER THIS INSTANT!
THERE'S ANOTHER ENTRY FOR THE OL' "THINGS I WISH I HADN'T SAID" LIST.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

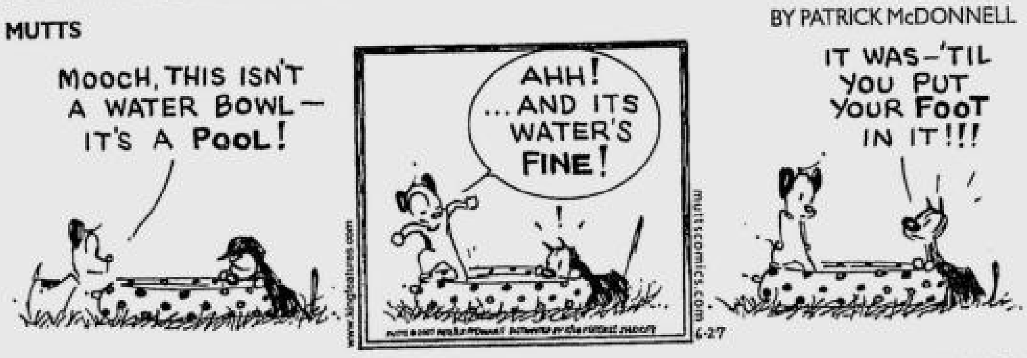
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAILANGAN KO NA SIGURONG GUMAWA NG JOURNAL KAGAYA N'UNG SA BABAENG CHARACTER SA "THE NOTEBOOK."
LALAGYAN KO ITO NG MARAMING PICTURES ...
WHA'S GOIN' ON?
BAKA DAW MAGKAROON NG ALZHEIMERS' DISEASE SI MANG DAGUL.
ANO 'YON?
"YON 'YUNG SAKIT NA MAKAKA-LIMUTAN MO ANG LAHAT NG NAKA-RAAN ...
MANG DAGUL, PAUTANG NAMAN NG' SANLIBO O.
KAPAK!

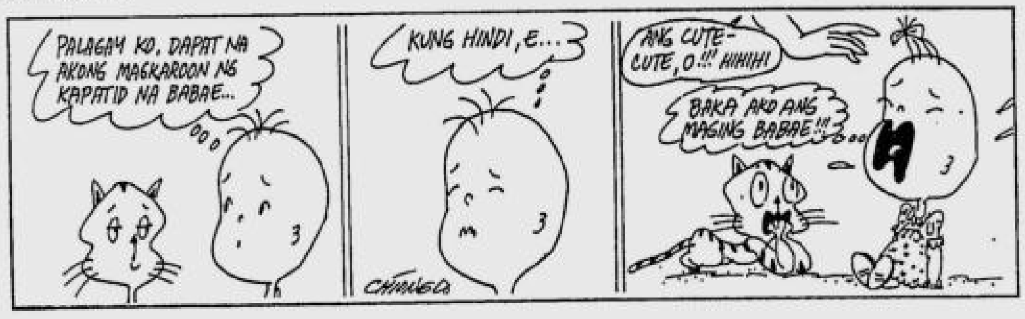
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH, THIS ISN'T A WATER BOWL — IT'S A POOL!
AHH! ...AND ITS WATER'S FINE!
IT WAS-'TIL YOU PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT!!!
muttscomics.com
6-27

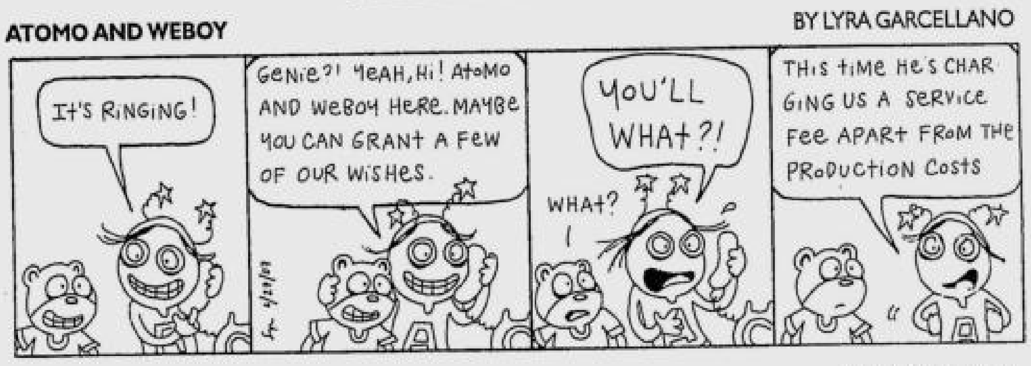
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PALAGAY KO, DAPAT NA AKONG MAGKAROON NG KAPATID NA BABAE...
KUNG HINDI, E...
ANG CUTE-CUTE, O!!! HIHIH!
BAKA AKO ANG MAGING BABAE!!!
CHIONGLO

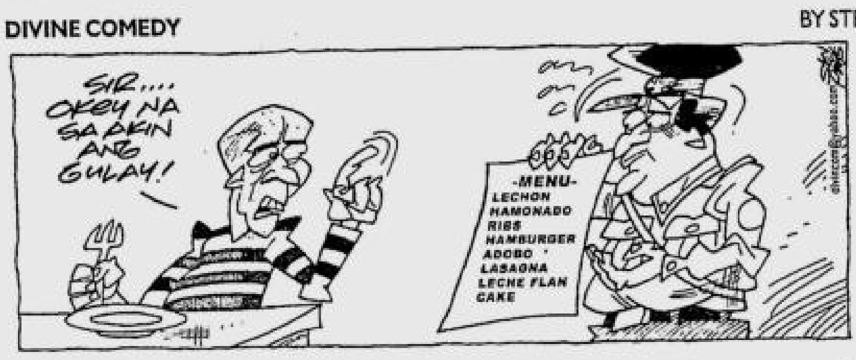
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT'S RINGING!
GENIE?! YEAH, HI! ATOMO AND WEBOY HERE. MAYBE YOU CAN GRANT A FEW OF OUR WISHES.
YOU'LL WHAT?!
WHAT?
THIS TIME HE'S CHARGING US A SERVICE FEE APART FROM THE PRODUCTION COSTS

DIVINE COMEDY

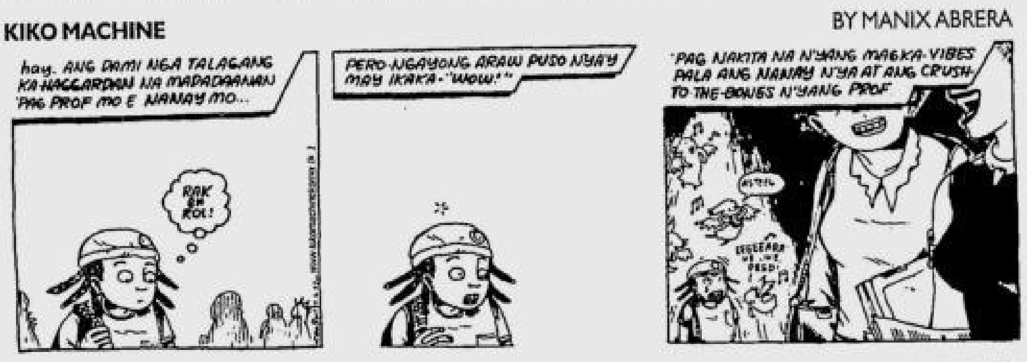
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SIR.... OKEY NA SA AKIN ANG GULAY!
-MENU-
LECHON
HAMONADO
RIBS
HAMBURGER
ADOBO
LASAGNA
LECHE FLAN
CAKE

GULAY LANG ANG NAGING LAST MEAL NG DEATHROW CONVICT NA SI EDONG DAHIL MASYADO SYANG HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

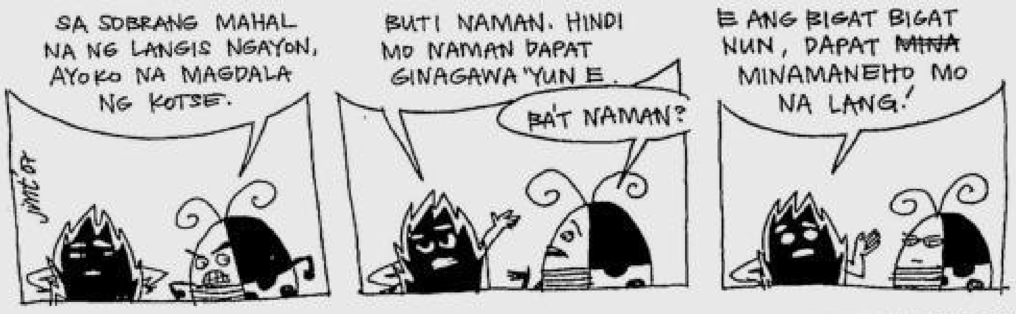
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay. ANG DAMI NGA TALAGANG KA-HAGGARDAN NA MADADAANAN 'PAG PROF MO E NANAY MO...
RAK EN ROL!
PERO NGAYONG ARAW PUSO NYA'Y MAY IKAKA-"WOW!"
'PAG NAKITA NA N'YANG MAGKA-VIBES PALA ANG NANAY NYA AT ANG CRUSH-TO-THE-BONES N'YANG PROF

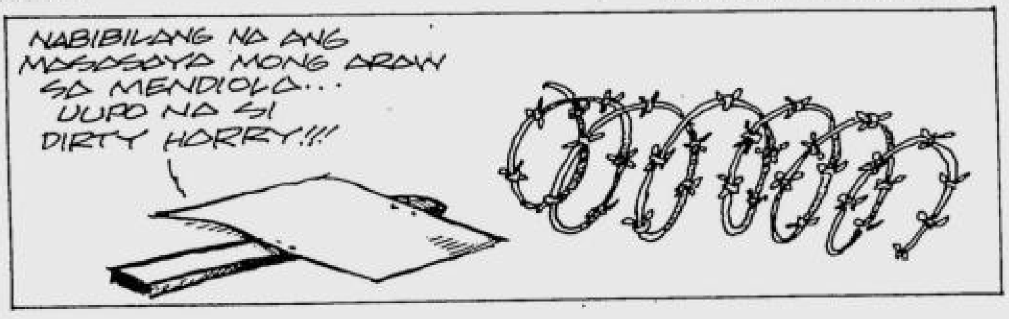
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA SOBRANG MAHAL NA NG LANGIS NGAYON, AYOKO NA MAGDALA NG KOTSE.
BUTI NAMAN. HINDI MO NAMAN DAPAT GINAGAWA 'YUN E.
BA'T NAMAN?
E ANG BIGAT BIGAT NUN, DAPAT MINA MINAMANEHO MO NA LANG!

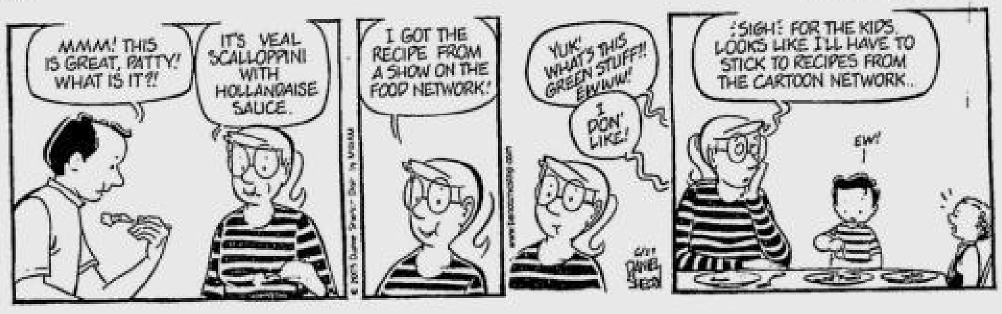
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NABIBILANG NA ANG MASASAYA MONG ARAW SA MENDIOLA... UUPO NA SI DIRTY HARRY!!!

BEN

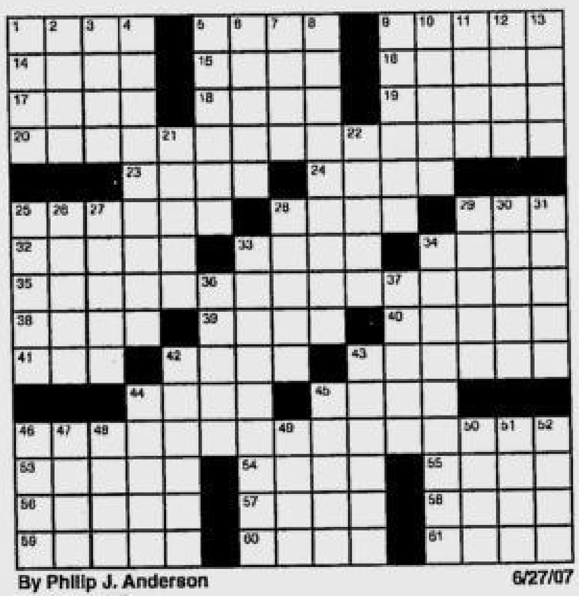
BY DANIEL SHELTON


MMM! THIS IS GREAT, PATTY! WHAT IS IT?!
IT'S VEAL SCALLOPPINI WITH HOLLANDAISE SAUCE.
I GOT THE RECIPE FROM A SHOW ON THE FOOD NETWORK!
YUK! WHAT'S THIS GREEN STUFF?! EWWW!
I DON' LIKE!
SIGH! FOR THE KIDS, LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO STICK TO RECIPES FROM THE CARTOON NETWORK...
EW!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Seek bargains
5 Singer Domino
9 Director Welles
14 Roz on "Frasier"
15 Part of a Latin trio
16 Get back to even
17 QED word
18 __ avis
19 Pavlov and Reitman
20 Winners and losers, 1974 NBA finals
23 Top guns
24 Faucet flaw
25 Dreamboat
28 Art colony in New Mexico
29 Ornamental stone
32 Vestige
33 Gulf of the Celebes Sea
34 Computer game name
35 Winners and losers, 2000 NBA finals
38 Chimps' kin
39 Vichy very
40 Deadly poisons
41 Harmless cyst
42 Becomes faint
43 Mail-in money-back offer
44 Chinese leader?
45 Swedish auto
46 Winners and losers, 1995 NBA finals
53 Map collection
54 "The Time Machine" race
55 Impetuous
56 Angry
57 High crags
58 Pineapple firm
59 Wooden pin
60 Son of Adam
61 Killed violently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61

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/27/07

DOWN

1 On __ (without guarantee)
2 Roll-call call
3 Spoken
4 Meager wages
5 Broad comedies
6 Build up
7 Scarlett's estate
8 Criteria
9 Pygmy antelopes
10 Raise steam
11 Distinct mus. tones
12 Pig sound
13 Monster's loch
21 More aloof
22 Sag
25 Attorney chaser?
26 Hang loosely
27 Like some old buckets
28 Notes
29 Actress Davis
30 White heron
31 Billiards shot
33 Clawed monkeys
34 Sheaths for sabers
36 Job duration
37 At right angles to the keel
42 Trucker's fuel
43 Pungent salad ingredient
44 Ray in the ocean
45 Pig sound
46 Sudden attack
47 Another in Spanish
48 Talon
49 Shaving-cream additive
50 Brit's slammer
51 Capri or Man
52 Munch on

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	Z	D	A		O	M	A	R		S	A	B	U
A	V	O	I	D		N	O	M	E		T	R	O	T
G	O	O	S	E	B	U	M	P	S		R	A	I	N
I	N	S	O	L	E	S		L	O	V	A	B	L	E
			W	E	B		B	E	L	O	W			
S	C	A	N		O	D	E		D	O	M	I	N	I
H	O	G		S	P	U	R	T		D	A	N	E	S
A	D	O	B	E		E	R	A		O	N	E	A	L
M	E	R	L	E		L	I	M	B	O		P	T	A
U	S	A	U	S	A		E	E	L		A	T	O	M
			E	A	R	N	S		O	C	S			
T	R	A	M	W	A	Y		A	C	O	L	Y	T	E
M	E	M	O		B	L	A	C	K	P	E	A	R	L
E	L	M	O		L	O	D	E		S	E	P	I	A
N	O	O	N		E	N	D	S		E	P	S	O	M

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6/27/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're hardworking and very determined. You're also intelligent and compassionate. In particular, you work to protect the underdog. You have strong moral convictions. Personally, you're protective of your private world. You're capable of overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles. You're extremely persuasive. A lovely, social year ahead you. (Exciting partnerships can begin.)
Birthdate of: Tobey Maguire, actor; Daryle Ward, baseball player; Helen Keller, teacher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to do something different today. Vary your routine; go someplace you've never been to before. You're hungry to learn something new!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an ideal day to deal with bills, insurance matters, wills, inheritances, taxes and red-tape stuff. Just roll up your sleeves and get whatever you can done.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. This is because the Moon is directly opposite your sign. It's small potatoes. Be cool.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Set aside some time today to de-clutter where you live or where you work—or both! You're a sign that is inclined to hold on to things, which means you own a lot of stuff.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a lovely, flirtatious, playful day! Enjoy good times with others. Sports, movies, the arts and playful times with children will delight you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Talk to parents and family members today. Invite people to your home. Share some of your private life with others. Family members in particular deserve your attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This can be a busy, productive day of taking short trips, running errands, finishing tasks and doing needed shopping. Spend time with siblings if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make friends with your bank account today. Find out just how much money you don't have. Stay on top of your cash flow today. (Keep your receipts.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might feel more emotional today; however, other than that, your luck is good today! Once again, the Moon is in your sign for today and tomorrow, which means it's your turn to ask the universe for a favor!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Work alone or behind the scenes today. You need some quiet time to be by yourself. This is also a good day to deal with the government or large institutions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Contact with a female friend could be important today. Someone might need advice, a sympathetic ear or a shoulder to cry on. Actually, this person might be you!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Bosses, parents and VIPs notice you today. Since you have their attention, speak up about whatever concerns you. Lady Luck is on your side.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

		1	7	3	4	2		
	5						6	
	9							
	2	4						
		7	4	5	2	3		
						4	1	
							4	
	6						9	
		5	9	6	7	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	8	4	7	2	3	5	9	1
7	9	1	8	4	5	6	2	3
5	2	3	9	1	6	8	4	7
3	4	2	6	9	8	1	7	5
8	7	9	1	5	2	3	6	4
1	6	5	4	3	7	2	8	9
4	5	8	3	6	9	7	1	2
2	1	7	5	8	4	9	3	6
9	3	6	2	7	1	4	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★

'Hanggang Dito Na Lamang at Maraming Salamat' is now a digital feature

ONE OF OUR FONDER RECOLLECTIONS AS A young theater buff in the '70s was the very first performance of **Orlando Nadres**' play, "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang at Maraming Salamat" at the Raha Sulayman Theater in Fort Santiago.

Nadres' one-act play was one of the first Filipino productions that dealt with the theme of homosexuality, so the presentation was deservedly a should-see in theater lovers' books.

Another major attraction was its cast—**Lino Brocka** as Fidel and **Bembol Roco** as Efren, among others.

In the play, Fidel is a "closet" gay and Julie (**Len Santos/Manny Castañeda**) is a flaming "queen," but they are bosom buddies. Fidel has been paying for the education of young Efren, but is unable to confess his love for him—until events conspire for him to do so, with painful consequences.

The actors' focused and felt performers added immeasurably to the production's pith, sass and bite, so at curtain call, everyone involved in the show was rewarded with a sustained ovation.

Later, more complex productions on the same theme would be written and staged, but "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang" is still hailed as an abiding gem of Philippine Theater.

Flash-forward to 2007: The good news is that "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang At Maraming Salamat" is now a digital feature, thanks to the initiative and resourcefulness of **Lino Tañada**.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Tañada recalls that he directed the stage version of "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang ..." in Los Angeles, California, in the '80s. After coming home to the Philippines in the mid-'90s, he thought of turning it into a digital movie, but couldn't trace the owner of its production rights.

In 2005, however, he finally got lucky and met the nephew of Orlando Nadres, Fr. **VG Nadres**, who agreed to his plan to turn it into a feature film.

The next challenge Tañada had to hurdle was securing the financing needed. After some rebuffs, he found his "angel" in **Mike Sicat**, a building contractor, who gave him full creative freedom—an "angel," indeed!

Tañada's lucky streak continued as he was able to get his "dream" cast together—**Nonie Buencamino** as Fidel, **Jon Santos** as Julie and **Jerwin Mercado** as Efren.

These are very good thespic choices, and Tañada should be complimented for his knack for "perfect" casting. We can hardly wait to see Nonie and Jon "go to town" in their scenes together.

Tañada agrees: "Their performances went beyond my expectations. Great, underrated actors like Nonie and Jon hardly need direction. Jon's natural flair for comedy and comic timing is impeccable, and Nonie's touching characterization of Fidel reminded one of late Lino Brocka."

We understand that Tañada's "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang At Maraming Salamat" will be premiered at the 2007 Cinemalaya alternative film fest at the CCP next month.

(Other production credits: Produced by Synkronicity Productions, with Mike Allan Sicat as executive producer, written for the screen by Lino Tañada, musical direction by **Willy Cruz**, edited by **Raul Manalo Jr.**, cinematography by **Chris Golez** and production management by **Raffy Queaño**. Other actors: **Josefina Sace** as Luming, **Merian Quimpo** as Mylene, **Marco Rodas** as Mando, **Darius Manalo** as Jess and **Eddson Guerea** as Botok.)

'Music and Lyrics'

Warner Home Video gives cool giveaways. When you buy the DVD and soundtrack of "Music and Lyrics," you get a raffle coupon and a chance to win an Apple iPod shuffle or limited edition "Music and Lyrics" premium items. The promo runs until July 15 at selected Odyssey and O Audio and Video outlets.

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PG-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
BRUCE WILLIS
DIE HARD 4.0
OPENS JULY 4

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GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

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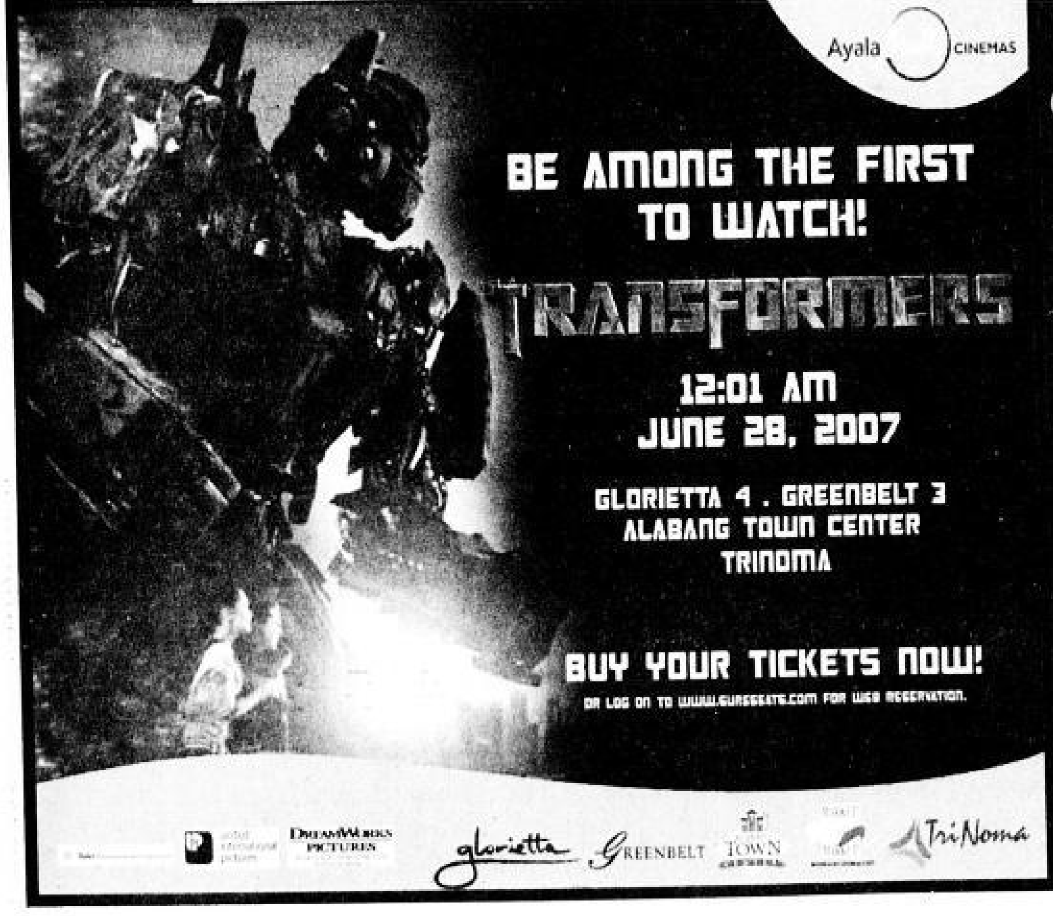
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 THE INVISIBLE	2 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	3 NEXT	4 BUG			
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 NEXT	2 BUG	3 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 THE INVISIBLE	6 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	7 OCEAN'S 13
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 NEXT	2 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER					
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	3 OCEAN'S 13 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE INVISIBLE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 NEXT GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	3 NEXT	4 THE INVISIBLE	5 OCEAN'S 13		
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	2 THE INVISIBLE	3 THE CONDEMNED	4 ZODIAC			
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	2 BUG	3 NEXT	4 THE INVISIBLE	5 ANGELS		

Ayala CINEMAS



At the Activity Center

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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness June 13 to July 1, 2007	Ansons Emporium Exhibit June 11 to 28, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Mitsubishi Car Display June 28 to 30 at Paseos	Ballet & Arts Centre at 3/F near Hallway of Blims Registration period is fr June 15 - 30. Classes starts July 3

GREENBELT
European Film Festival at the Parl
June 21 & 28, 2007 @ GB 3 Park

Greenbelt Onstage
ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM
Embroidered Mutliples: 18th - 19th Century Philippine Costume fr. The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology). The Netherlands June 4 to July 1, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

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Catch today's
hottest bands
as they perform
their latest hits.

TriNoma · June 15
6 Cyclemind
"Home"
Activity Center, 6pm

Market! Market! · June 22
Cueshé
"Back To Me"
Activity Center, 5pm

Pavilion Mall · June 30
Craeons
"Non-Toxic"
Bridgeway, 5pm

SONY BMG
MARKET! MARKET!
TriNoma
PAVILION mall

THEIR WAR. OUR WORLD.
CHOOSE YOUR SIDE
MTRCB RATING
G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
STRONG CAUTION
A MICHAEL BAY FILM
TRANSFORMERS
PROTECT
DESTROY
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OPENS TOMORROW
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
Solar Entertainment Corporation

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MOVIEWORLD

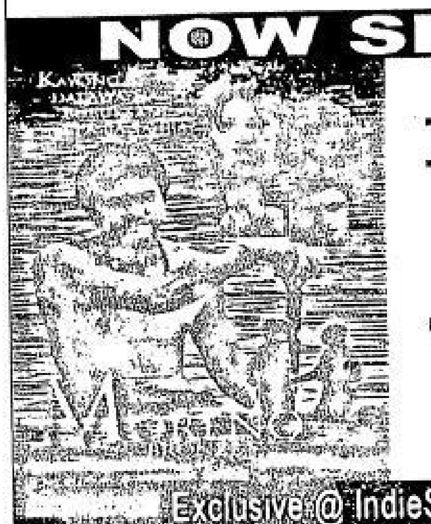
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 632-9116

1 FANTASTIC FOUR • THX
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BUG
4 WILDERNESS
5 NEXT
6 ANGELS
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 indieSine: MORENO
9 KAPE KARMA
10 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

NOW SHOWING!



CRISALDO PALO'S
MORENO

Kayong dalawa na...
Bubuksan pa ba sa iba?

Don't miss this PROVOCATIVE
film about BISEXUALS who fall in love!
From Cris Pablo, director of Queer FilmS like
DUDA, BATHHOUSE and METLOGS!

Starting JUNE 27!
Summer's last HOT film.

Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110/P120 536-7809 to 12

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 BUG
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 ANGELS
5 NEXT
6 WILDERNESS
7 KAPE KARMA

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100/P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 WILDERNESS
2 ANGELS
3 NEXT
4 THE INVISIBLE
5 KAPE KARMA
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 BUG

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90/P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 NEXT
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 ANGELS

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 THE INVISIBLE
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ANGELS
4 BUG

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 LETTER to IWO JIMA

ROUNDUP

Japanese films

THE JAPAN Foundation, Manila, in cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza Manila, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the UP Film Institute, presents slices of Japanese life as seen through the eyes of contemporary Japanese directors.

Among the films to be featured in "Eiga Sai 2007" is "Kamikaze Girls," a critically acclaimed light comedy by Novala Takemoto and Nakashima Tetsuya about two very different teenagers who become best friends.

All films will be shown with English subtitles. Screening venues are at the UP Film Institute (July 2 to 5) and CCP Dream Theater (July 4-8).

Admission is free. Visit www.jfmo.org.ph or call 811-6155 to 58.

'Long Way Down'

THE NOKIA 6110 Navigator will have its navigation capabilities tested as it accompanies actors Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman as they take the "Long Way Down" to Cape Town on BMW motorcycles.

With the new mobile phone model routing the path, best friends Ewan and Charley have begun their monumental motorcycle journey from John O'Groats, Scotland to Cape Town, South Africa, with a number of stops planned along the way.

"Long Way Down" follows on from 2004's "Long Way Round" where Ewan and Charley motorbiked around the world from London to New York over 115 days.

Miss Trendsetter 2007

CHRISTINE Ann Urbanozo, director of sales and marketing of Imperial Palace Suites, inked an agreement with the female model search Miss Trendsetter 2007.

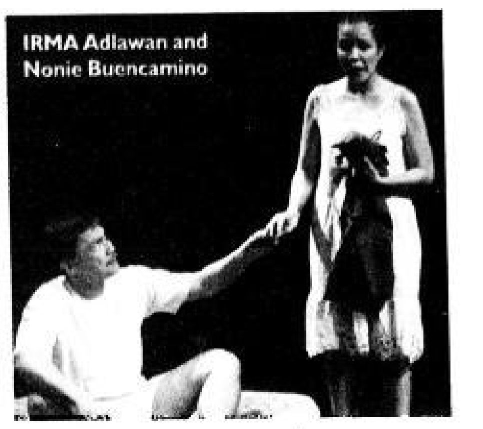
The hotel, located at Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City, will host the press conference and the presentation of candidates in a luncheon.

This year's winner will receive P250,000, gifts from Wella Haircare, Paul and Joe Cosmetics, Paris Hilton Perfume and Hudges.

The event is presented by Hudges Industries, makers of Trendsetter linens.

Coronation night is on Sept. 7.

Tickets are available at SM Ticketnet outlets nationwide. Visit www.getzmo.com for details.



IRMA Adlawan and Nonie Buencamino

2 outstanding plays in labfest

TWO OUTSTANDING PRODUCTIONS IN LAST year's Virgin Labfest 2 return for a limited run in the 2007 Virgin Labfest 3, the annual festival of untried, unpublished and unstaged plays.

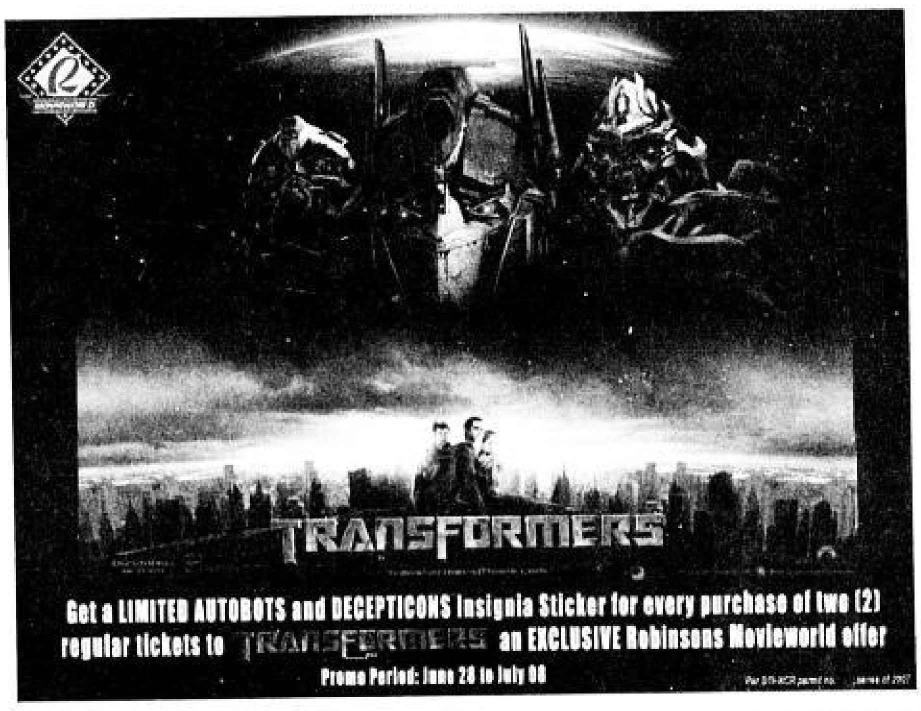
"Hubad," written by Liza Magtoto and directed by Denisa Reyes, features Irma Adlawan and Nonie Buencamino who play a husband and wife taken to playing sexual games to spice up their marriage.

Job Pagsibigan's "The Palanca in My Mind" directed Roobak Valle Valle offers a diverting stab at the stuffed, geriatric image of the Palanca Awards, the country's premier literary competition.

Heading the cast is Wenah Nagales.

The play won top honors in last year's Palanca Awards.

"The Best of Virgin Labfest 2" ("The Palanca In My Mind" and "Hubad") runs on July 3 and 4 at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Tickets at P200 are available at the CCP Box Office (8323704) and Ticketworld (8919999).



TRANSFORMERS
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Promo Period: June 28 to July 08

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AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' TRANSFORMERS' SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JUNE 28 THRU

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 11:00 am, 1:55 pm, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Cinema 2 - 10:50 am, 1:45 pm, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
Cinema 3* - 1:15 pm, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
Cinema 6 - 11:40 am, 2:35 pm, 5:30, 8:25, 11:20
Cinema 7 - 12:35 pm, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:35 pm, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20
Cinema 2 - 1:05 pm, 4:00, 6:55, 9:20

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1*- 12:05 pm, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
Cinema 2 - 11:35 am, 2:15 pm, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
Cinema 3 - 1:15 pm, 3:55, 6:35, 9:15
Cinema 4 - 1:45 pm, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

TRINOMA
Cinema 2 - 12:25 pm, 3:15, 6:05, 8:55
Cinema 4**- 11:50 am, 2:40 pm, 5:30, 8:20
Cinema 5 - 11:20 am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
Cinema 6 - 10:35 am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05
Cinema 7* - 1:00 pm, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 1:15 pm, 4:05, 9:45
Cinema 2* - 11:30 am, 2:20 pm, 5:10, 10:50
Cinema 4**- 12:40 pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00
Cinema 5**- 1:45 pm, 4:35, 10:15

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 4 - 11:45 am, 2:40 pm, 5:35, 8:30

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1** - 1:05 pm, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20
Cinema 4 - 1:35 pm, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
Cinema 5 - 12:05 pm, 2:50, 5:35, 8:20

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 1:00 pm, 6:00, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 1:30 pm, 3:50, 6:30, 9:30
Cinema 4- 12:30 pm, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30

* - Guaranteed Seating & THX Certified
** - Guaranteed Seating & Digital Sound

Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
For verification, pls. call 729-7777.
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

CHEER FACTOR

FREEMAN

MANDELA

Freeman to play Mandela

LOS ANGELES—US actor Morgan Freeman is to play former South African President Nelson Mandela in a drama based on the leader's appearance at the 1995 Rugby World Cup, it was reported on Friday.

Freeman, the Oscar-winning star of "The Shawshank Redemption," "Million Dollar Baby" and "Seven," said he was honored to be given the opportunity of playing Mandela, entertainment journal Daily Variety said.

Great honor

"I have known Nelson Mandela personally for quite some time, and am continually in awe of his enormous presence in the world," Freeman was quoted as saying. "The opportunity to portray him in this film is a great honor."

The film is to be base on an upcoming book by British journalist John Carlin, "The Human Factor: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Changed the World," the report added.

AFP